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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 1249

senators have been this afternoon, while we've been discussing this, but I haven't heard too much in this debate about ratepayers.

SENATOR BOURNE: I agree.

SENATOR FISCHER: And I'm curious. When...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator.

SENATOR FISCHER: You know, as I look at this map and I see that MUD and Aquila seem to share some areas on the eastern part of the state; is that true?

SENATOR BOURNE: Well, this map...my understanding, this map would reflect the areas that those entities would serve after the passage of LB 1249.

SENATOR FISCHER: But currently, they do share some of the service areas?

SENATOR BOURNE: I would say that they butt up against one another.

SENATOR FISCHER: Okay. Is there...so there's really no competition, then?

SENATOR BOURNE: Well, I think what happens is that when...as the city grows, and Senator Landis will correct me if I don't have this exactly right, but as the city of Omaha grows, there's a mechanism by which MUD can grow with the city. And they will come in and pay for Aquila's infrastructure and then continue to grow with the city. I think that's an accurate statement.

SENATOR FISCHER: So I guess, back to my question, though, is there any competition for citizens of the state?

SENATOR BOURNE: Well,...

SENATOR FISCHER: Are there, you know...can you bid on rates? Can you bid on who you want to provide that service for your