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LB 1249

little while and discuss what I see are some real issues with the bill. The last time we debated this, I believe it was Tuesday, Senator Landis talked about the exclusive territories, put territories on utilities so there's no duplicate pipes, and we already talked about how that isn't occurring. I've got a letter from the PSC that says it's not occurring. I have current maps. The maps that we had last year were based from information in 1995, prior to the passage of LB 78, which has eliminated duplicate piping in the state. So again, if anybody wants to see the piping by the utilities, I have maps over here underneath the balcony. They are current. They are accurate after the passage of LB 78. But I want to talk about a couple things. I want to talk about the value that an exclusive territory has, which is advocated in this bill. I handed out those maps, and I know you all saved them from Tuesday, the nice map of Nebraska that showed Kinder Morgan's area, MUD's area, and Aquila's area. And my information indicates that...Senator Pahls has kept the map. Thank you, Senator Pahls. If anybody would like to see the map, if you didn't save the copy, I'm sure he'd be happy to share it with you. But my information indicates that every state who has awarded exclusive territories has extracted a value from doing that. It just makes sense that that would happen. You know, I'm going to give you an example of real life. I happen to be a fan of McDonald's, and as many of you can...looking at me, you could probably understand that. Well, McDonald's, they award franchises. Okay? That's what we're talking about here. They don't just give them away. If Senator Synowiecki wants a franchise, a McDonald's franchise, he's going to pay handsomely for that. That makes sense, doesn't it? Well, what we're doing here is we're saying, we're going to give you an exclusive franchise and out of our benevolence, the goodness of our heart, we're not going to charge you for it. Is that being a responsible steward for the citizens of Nebraska? I don't think it is. And nobody has addressed here why we should be doing this. No one has said on this floor what the problem is that would justify the passage of LB 1249. Whenever I introduce a bill, whenever Senator Aguilar introduces a bill, whenever most of us in this body introduce a bill, we justify the reason for the change in the status quo and, with all due respect, I would suggest to you that that justification for making such a significant policy change has