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the Legislature is going to do a certain thing statutorily, the Legislature intends to reenact the provisions, well, I mean this...the original bill was done my first year in the Legislature, 1999. I can hardly remember the issue whatsoever. And so for Senator Baker to introduce this on the last day of the session saying that this Legislature intends to do something that most of us don't know exactly what's going on here, I think it's an inappropriate forum for a resolution like this. I previously didn't have a position on this whole issue, but I do now. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bourne. Senator Bromm.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you very much, Mr. President. This is...this is a tough issue and an issue which the Legislature spent a good deal of time on when it was enacted in 2001, and also in 2000. And for those who are new, just as a little bit of background, we reached a point where some decisions had to be made. We had a great deal of unlit or dark fiber around the state owned by many public utilities, and there was also a need for some higher speed communication and Internet throughout the state, but there was a great deal of concern about who was going to provide that service, how it was going to be provided and whether or not actually letting the public utilities proceed to light the fiber would create a disincentive for private telecommunication carriers to make investments in many parts of the state to make sure that all of our citizens had some access. So through a great deal of time on the part of the committee and negotiations with all of the interested parties, out of that came LB 827. And LB 827 was implemented and some utilities, in accordance with the provisions of the bill, leased out dark fiber to telecommunications carriers. There has been some...and the bill provided for the utility that had installed this excess fiber to be compensated for the fiber and allowed them to sell it for a market rate, actually, and to make some money on it. But part of the money they would make would be put into an incentive fund for communities who were without services, high-speed services, to be able to access grants and things in order to facilitate services to their communities. And it ties in very much with economic development and rural economic development and that sort of thing. So the thing was in process