

would be so busy with 221 today that he wouldn't be very much interested in 223, because I think even that number is a little high for him, but since we have this issue here today, we might as well discuss it. I can understand Senator Kelly's concern. I know the concern on the issue. The amendments he offers obviously is not acceptable, would not be acceptable and would certainly be detrimental to the bill. I suspect that Senator Kelly would like to kill the bill, but he is being...I don't know whether to say clever, or not. So I'll just forget either one of those. I think the issue is clear. I think Senator Kelly has made his point. There is no reason for us to get into prolonged debate about it. I will simply make our position clear on behalf of Senator Cullan and myself. We oppose this amendment or any amendment, and let's get to the vote.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Carsten.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President, excuse me, I do have two or three questions. I am interested in this, Senator Lewis, because of some areas in my district that I am afraid that are going to be affected, and I guess I need to apologize to you, Senator Lewis, for not bringing this forward before, but I am concerned about it now, particularly, and if I may, Senator Lewis, would like to ask you just a couple of, two or three questions, if I may, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Lewis, will you respond?

SENATOR LEWIS: Yes, I'd either respond to them or Senator Cullan will, one of the two of us.

PRESIDENT: Alright, one or the other will respond. Alright, proceed, Senator Carsten.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Well, as I understand now, present law provides that municipalities have the right to serve new customers in their service area. Now, will this...will 223 prohibit that provision?

PRESIDENT: Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, Senator Carsten, in response to your question, no, LB 223 would not. In existing service areas, as they are now, would be formalized and would not be changed. Existing service areas would be as they are now, and municipalities would have the right to assume those customers within their existing service areas, and they would have the option of negotiating a settlement for the facilities which they have to take over to serve