

is justified. The type of change that LB 461 would entail would force utilities in Nebraska to engage in joint power supply planning. Now the Dunn report, which this legislature requested and which many of you are familiar with, stresses that above I think anything else the fact that we do not have joint planning and as a result we have the potential I would suggest that we have had in the past the problem that the rate-payers have had to pay additional costs because of this jealousy, because of this overzealousness to expand one's territory to serve one's customers sometimes at the detriment to those particular customers. At the very least LB 461 would limit building for only their identified customers. You could not build for customers in the future. I don't think that it is right to ask a rate payer of 70 years of age to be paying for future customers. It is one thing to be paying for current customers but not those customers in the future. The second pattern that emerges deals in the area of load forecasting. It is interesting that the Power Review Board has never put into statute any standard on what criteria should be used in establishing load forecasting. You merely put in your application, make a determination and that particular figure could be low, it could be high, it could be way off the benchmark but it would still be used. What we are saying is that we need to have some sort of requirement that you utilize a forecast that would be judged accurate by basic utility practices and utility methods. A third area that comes into scrutiny when you look at this pattern that is formulating on these three different applications is that there is nothing in terms of consideration on the negative economic impact of that locale. I would suggest that you merely take a look at Sutherland, Nebraska as an example of what has happened there. There is nothing, there is no review that deals in the aspect of the environmental cost associated with it, water uses, the impact on schools, hospitals, roads, police, etc. To me this seems so basic. If you are going to build a power plant in a locale, certainly those considerations, the impact that it is going to have on the community, negative as well as positive, must be looked at and yet there is no criteria, it is not considered, and I think that that is inconceivable that that type of thing could happen. Fourth, the effect of the electric rates versus energy growth. At some point in time we have to make the determination of whether or not we are going to compare what the electric rates are in terms of economic growth. We have heard in testimony, through the LR 161 committee, this summer, about the excellent use of load management techniques that the REA's are using. Those techniques have reduced peak demand by approximately 25%. Yet again, nothing in the application is used in terms of promoting load management in dealing with demand. So that we have the very real potential of building a plant strictly on....