

**One Hundred Fourth Legislature - First Session - 2015**

**Introducer's Statement of Intent**

**LB535**

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**Chairperson: Senator Jim Smith**

**Committee: Transportation and Telecommunications**

**Date of Hearing: March 10, 2015**

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

The purpose for the bill is to grant to the Nebraska Public Service Commission the exclusive authority to prescribe by rule and regulation the depth requirements for underground natural gas pipeline and major oil pipeline facilities that are located in two or more counties.

There has recently been consideration by individual counties of prescribing depth requirements for underground facilities as a part of the county zoning process. Having a patchwork of depth requirements in individual counties for facilities that lie in multiple counties would be disruptive and would create compliance issues for entities operating and managing these facilities.

LB 535 would provide that if there is a public policy reason to establish specific depth requirements for these facilities, the Nebraska Public Service Commission would be better suited to address inter-county facilities on a state-wide basis.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Senator Jim Smith**