

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The committee amendments are adopted. Senator Abboud, do you wish to open on 1364?

SENATOR ABBOUD: Yes, Madam President and colleagues. If you open your bill book on 1364, the bill, it's pretty...somewhat easy to understand as far as the claims that the...the claim numbers with the amount that were approved by the State Claims Board and approved by the Business and Labor Committee. I'll run through quickly what each one of the claims were for and the amount. As I said, the docket sheet offers a very good explanation of each one of the cases that were approved by the Claims Board as well as by the committee. There was a claim in the amount, for Kuehner Farms, out of Doniphan, Nebraska, that was requested and approved of \$4,520. Lee Pruneda, there was an amount for...request for 40,000, Claims Board approved 20,000, the committee agreed. It involved a labor dispute. Webster County Community Hospital requested an amount of \$4,929, approval of \$51, involving reimbursement for an emergency room patient. Paul Fraas requested 6,700 for crop damage, and there was an approval of \$4,000. I guess it was for crop rent that the crops were damaged. The Hampton case involved a tort claim. There was an approval on that claim in the amount of...for Michael Hampton, in the amount of \$400,000 approximately, as well as for Mr. Hampton's wife, Sandra Hampton, of \$38,000 for...mostly, I believe, loss of consortium, I believe that's what the claim was for. These were settled...this particular case was settled in the Nebraska Supreme Court. In addition, there was the case of the...guardian of the estate of Joshua Jon Zarek, a minor. This was settled in the amount of \$65,000, as well as for the...the guardian of the estate of Leah Zarek in the amount of 30,000. Guardian in the estate of Jesse Jon Zarek in the amount of 65,000, and Jacob Jon Zarek in the amount of \$65,000. Those deal with the tort claims that were either...went to court and received judgment against the state, or were settled by the Attorney General's office. The remaining amount of claims deal with write-offs by the different state agencies. These can be either bad checks or claims for uncollected debts against state agencies. The list on page 5 of the bill provides a pretty good summary from the Game and Parks with 119,000 to Peru State College, Department of Education, Department of Health, Game and Parks, all of these were approved by the Claims Board and totaled about \$516,000 of basically claims or debts against the state that the agencies view as uncollectible. With that, I'd be happy to answer any questions.