

dedicated fund for such purpose it was unlikely, if not impossible, to attract any federal funds which are dwindling, in any event, but to the extent they might be available you didn't even have the first step. From that discussion by those people and the question was asked from the committee during the course of the hearing if a concept could be developed...well, it was the other way around, we suggested a concept that if the only need was to have a fund that was...that served as a pledge to attract federal funds, that one possible alternative, and we never have gotten an amendment drafted to go on 716 which would have been the vehicle, but the concept was that you could amend the law, which is what would require the basic law relative to the Cash Reserve Fund, and you could designate a portion of that, and by the end of this biennium at most it will have in it, I think it's 31 million as I recall, although if the drought keeps up that will get depleted before the end of the biennium, but that's another issue, but the...you could pledge that fund as the vehicle for which you might quali...Nebraska might qualify for some large projects with federal funds. If the federal funds came, then it would become an annual appropriation because most of those projects are over a period of time, but it would become an annual appropriation. You would not deplete the Cash Reserve Fund to provide the funds because that serves a purpose it needs to be there for. But you could use it as the pledge, similar to what Wyoming has, where they have a fund that they use as a pledge. In their case they actually use that money, but in our case we would be using an annual appropriation. And it was meant for a very limited purpose. The proposal has expanded to be available for all kinds of things which I don't think probably is very feasible, but conceptually for a very limited purpose I think there is some merit. But obviously intent language in an appropriation bill...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR WARNER: ...cannot accomplish that purpose because it requires substantive law change first, and that could not be done obviously in the appropriation bill, but there is a concept perhaps that does not deplete the Cash Reserve Fund and yet could serve another purpose of possibly attracting federal funds because apparently what limited federal funds there are, are more likely to be made where there is a pledge to support and financing by a state that is making application and that conceptually, I think, has some merit. Unfortunately, I think