

see that these 14 communities become sort of an access center so that you actually automate and you provide those services on a statewide basis allowing other communities to access and individuals, by the way, if they have their own computers, their own automated system within their home, in a business, whatever. They can access and make use of the interlibrary loan kinds of services and the communication between those communities then will be of great benefit to the state itself. And someone who has been an avid reader for all of the years of my life and have really made heavy, heavy use of the library, I think this is something that we really need to take a step in this direction for the future because this is the future and we want to make sure we do everything we can to keep our libraries up to speed and these people then that will benefit will be particularly the rural people of Nebraska and all communities across the state in the end will benefit by this. I understand the concern that the Appropriations Committee has from what Senator Moore said. This is not something that if we don't do it this year, my understanding, is that correct? Is Senator Moore here? I got in on the tail end of what you were saying, Senator Moore, and I wanted you to clarify that for me. Did I understand you to say that the offer is still available if we can't provide the funding this year?

SENATOR MOORE: Well, it is our opinion the commitment is open. I mean, if someone wants to disagree with that, but it is certainly our opinion and our judgment if we choose to come back next year and do this, that Kiewit grant is still there. Now I do not have a letter that says that verbatim, but that is strictly our understanding in my opinion.

SENATOR SMITH: Can you tell me, I don't know, either yourself or Senator Robak, because I've discussed this a little bit with your staff person and I'm trying to understand exactly, because I was not con...I'm really sort of speaking in the dark here, by my local librarian. But I don't understand with the expected implementation of automation, year one, first year, so on and so forth, what does that mean? Year one, year two, does that mean that they are ready, they will be up and running in that length of time?

SENATOR ROBAK: That's just an estimate, and that's when they will apply for their grant.

SENATOR SMITH: Why do we have a year? How do they know what