

full, the full 25 percent match on the FEMA application. Under the current circumstances, it just does not appear feasible to ask the local communities or the local political subdivisions to make anything that amounts to a significant contribution to the cleanup and the recovery from this disaster. In addition to the very limited ability that these political subdivisions have to contribute, you also need to consider the economic impact that this disaster has had on the communities. The City of Crawford, for example, has lost its sale barn. That sale barn held 43 sales a year, brought two to three hundred people to town when each one of those sales was held, and we are talking about something that occurs in a community of 1,100 people. That sale barn made a significant contribution to the economy. The other element that they have lost in their local economy is the ability to hold their Fourth of July rodeo. That was held adjacent to the park, and there is no access. That rodeo contributed significantly to the economy of this very small community, and they may not be able to have that this year. So aside from the fact that they probably can't raise anything in property taxes, they may be suffering a reduction in the sales tax that they currently collect and other economic losses. I think it is entirely appropriate, as has been recommended by the Appropriations Committee, that we fund the full 25 percent match that is currently indicated in the FEMA...would be indicated by the FEMA damage assessment...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: ...and I would ask for your support of the amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. The next speaker is Senator Bernard-Stevens. I don't see Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members, I will be brief. I'd just rise to support the amendment. It has been stated the need for it and I accept that. I think the Governor does have some discretion yet if this money is put into his fund as to how exactly he may allocate those resources, but I think to remind us also again, which we are still in the storm season in Nebraska. We still stand some risk of having more need in this next, particularly the next 30 days, or it could go on all through the summer. So none of us really realize whether our area, our district, our region might be next. So I think we