

authority it was set up as a quasi governmental entity with the intent of providing a budget of \$2 million a year that would go toward venture capital assistance to our small businesses in the State of Nebraska. Since that time, something like over \$10 million has been spent by the state on the authority. We've got an investment of something over \$3 million remaining in those companies we made investments in, and the thought is that that isn't a particularly good return on investment. Last year, as you recall, the authority was stripped of its funding, and as a result reevaluated its status, and its goals, and its future, and came back with a proposal, adopted on January 15th, to go to a different type of situation where they would go to a private sector venture capital fund, merge their assets into that fund, oversee that on behalf of the State of Nebraska, and basically not directly manage their investments, but rather try to leverage private investment with the public funds and investments that remain within the authority. The authority did come to the Banking Committee last week and present their plan. We have been briefed on the proposal. This resolution was cosigned by the membership of the Banking Committee, I believe, unanimously. So what the authority is looking for is legislative approval to go this different route. They feel that they have the statutory authority to pursue this, but they want to have the legislative stamp of approval, and that's what this resolution is all about. So I don't want to diminish its importance, it is an important issue. Your support for this resolution will change the direction of the authority to one that leverages private venture capital and takes a different route than the one it had before, but with the intent of trying to maximize public funds impact on venture capital missions in the state. With that, I'd...I see Senator Landis has joined us. I'm sure Senator Landis will be happy to answer questions. Would you like the rest of my time, Senator Landis, on opening? I'll defer to Senator Landis.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Madam President. I was downstairs in my office discussing taxes with five farmers, and I heard this issue begun to be talked about on the floor, and I was grateful for Senator Wesely's initiation of its discussion. We do not need to approve or authorize this change in the Research and Development Authority, that authority exists without the need for us to approve. But in asking how to proceed I advised the Research and Development Authority that this, as a