

years to make the State of Nebraska match local government, which is putting up 50 percent of the facilities or money, 50 percent of the money is local match, 25 percent is from the Kiewit Foundation Grant, that will go away if we do not match it this year. So it is really a very modest investment from the State of Nebraska's standpoint to provide real resources to, once again, all Nebraskans, and I would say especially our young, and so I think it is well that we understand what kind of commitment this is, and even though I acknowledge and we have said before that we are going to be making probably some severe cuts into the future, it seems like we ought to also be able to continue our investment into the future. Much as this Capitol Building itself was an investment in the future 60 years ago, much as many of the things that have gone before us have been an investment, even in tough times, certainly we ought to be able to keep investing our resources wisely for those that are coming behind us in addition to try to continue to meet our current obligations, and we have many. But it just seems to me we cannot ignore investment in the future. We cannot ignore planting seeds for the future, and it seems to me libraries is one way that we do that.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I, too, commend Senator Lamb for bringing this issue to us. I support the...however, this particular appropriation for the reasons that Senator Moore stated. It clearly meets the criteria that we established for the appropriations process, but I will say something else, and I said it last night, that this program, Senator Lamb's wish will be fulfilled if we do not vote to cut the wards of the court program which is coming up next. This program will go, in all likelihood, as will four or five other programs. So, Senator Lamb, your wish may be fulfilled anyway. But I am going to not to support Senator Lamb at this point, but I will tell you right now that if we go back there with an additional \$1.7 million added to our budget next week before Select File, this program and a lot of other worthwhile programs that clearly meet our criteria, which is, one, that it is not a long-term investment in dollars, state dollars; two, that the opportunity will go away unless we act this year. Those criteria, which we also apply to the EPSCoR program and other programs, we will have to take those very...another very hard look at those worthwhile programs if \$1.7 million comes back into our budget. So, Senator Lamb, I am going to oppose your