

President. Madam President, pursuant to the resolutions introduction, Speaker Withem directed the resolution be referred to committee for public hearing. That committee (sic) was held by the Education Committee, was advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the resolution at this time.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Chair recognizes Senator Wehrbein to open on LR 48.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Madam President, members of the body, I'm going to be fairly brief on this, this morning. But I wanted to bring this to your attention about raising the issue of how important Nebraska Educational TV is to Nebraska. I have to say at this point it's fairly...it's somewhat uncertain as to what is going to happen at the national level in terms of funding for this. In fact, it appears that in the last 30 days there has not been as much interest or at least drive to reduce the funding as there was apparently early in the year. But I thought it important to bring this to your attention because of the importance of ETV is in Nebraska. We have lots of money invested in the infrastructure in Nebraska at this point. We use it extensively across the state. Nebraska is obviously a sparsely populated state in many areas, and so ETV has been one of the ways that we've been able to stretch out our communications across the whole State of Nebraska. Nebraska receives approximately \$1.8 million from the Corporation for Public Service for community service grants for the two TV licenses and public radio, which represents about 14.50 percent of our current budget in ETV. We would be impacted beyond this because many of our programs that originate nationally would not be available to us. It would impact other stations that are currently providing some programming for others across the country, and would, I think, be a big impact on the way we can reach in public service, public education and other forms that we use it. I have a list of a lot of things that will be impacted, if anyone is interested. But I simply felt it was important to bring this to the attention of our Congressional delegation. I, too, am not adverse to making some cuts at the national level, in fact I am going to propose...I support many of the cuts that are going to be made. But I think that we have to recognize that different cuts in different areas impact states differently, and Nebraska is one here, I think, that would be heavily impacted by taking this particular cut. And so even though I will be cautious in recommending or not recommending cuts at the federal level, I think that public