

that what we're doing is money well spent in continuing to encourage national public broadcasting television and radio, both. And it would be a great loss to the citizens of Nebraska, and the citizens of our entire state were we to not continue this funding. So I would encourage my colleagues to vote favorably on this resolution. Although it doesn't actually help to continue the funding, I think it's certainly a good message that says we value it here in Nebraska, we as representatives of the people of Nebraska, in representing those people, value the program that they're receiving and think that the Nebraska Public Education TV and radio stations are doing an exceptional job, and they are to be commended for their work. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Preister. The Chair recognizes Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Madam President. I also rise in support of this resolution and commend the Chair of the Appropriations Committee for bringing it to the body, and also commend the outstanding work of Nebraska Educational Television and the public radio in the state. That's already been echoed. The main reason why I rise, however, is to, although I support this resolution, I'm also concerned about the deficit, the spending at the federal level, and at some point in time Nebraskans, Americans, we're all going to have to decide what we can do without, as we continue to send the message that we want the federal government to do less. So I rise in support, once again I want to emphasize, but throw a little caution to the wind that at some point in time we're going to have to wrestle with those tough decisions on what we're willing to do without. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Maurstad. Senator Withem.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Madam President, members of the body, after Senator Maurstad's remarks, maybe what I'm going to say will be very redundant, but I was somewhat taken by the juxtaposition of this resolution, asking the federal government to continue to spend more money versus what we're probably going to be dealing with here in a few weeks, and that will be being called upon to ratify an amendment to the federal Constitution calling for a balanced budget every year. And it will be interesting to see how the discussion about, you know, public television. And, Senator Wehrbein, it happens to be the first one that's up,