

budget of \$2.3 million this year. In the past 20 years, we have seen a marked reduction in the regulation of transportation industries at the federal level, and a preemption of many of the regulatory activities at the state level. At the state level during the same period, the Nebraska Legislature substantially deregulated telecommunications in 1986. The removal of these federal and state regulations and the preemption of state regulations has led to a reduction in the authority, jurisdiction, and workload of the Public Service Commission. Now removing language dealing with the Public Service Commission will only give us the flexibility to adapt the Public Service Commission in a new deregulated and ever-changing economic environment. It will not automatically eliminate the Public Service Commission and it certainly will not automatically eliminate those statutes that deal with the kinds of issues that we think are important, the kind of regulation that we want to have in place. None of the statutes that deal with the Public Service Commission, 75-101 to 75-155 will go away as a result of my constitutional amendment. What will happen is if we advance the constitutional amendment and eventually pass it, the voters will vote on it, and then we will be, in my estimation, given added flexibility to adapt the organization in a changing environment. And I also believe that when we are talking about some of the hard decisions that we have to make about the size of our government, the way the government delivers services, we are putting a great deal of pressure on local subdivisions to be very efficient, this is an important issue for us to prove that we are very serious about taking some of the hard actions that need to be taken to make sure that we are as efficient and as effective as possible. One of the other things that you have on your desk is what amounts to a program evaluation from the year 1960, and I would like to share with you some of the recommendations from that program evaluation. The other thing I want you to know is that I may be just a little ahead of the curve, but I think it is a good ahead of the curve because there has been a program evaluation that has been ongoing through our current program evaluation committee, and the results of that program evaluation will be available within the next month. I have not seen them. I do not know what they are, but I don't...I really believe that adopting this constitutional amendment today is only going to put us in a better position to be able to respond to the recommendations from that program evaluation. I am sure that they are going to have some recommendations, which bear on the structure of this agency, and