

to the original intent of Senator Brashear's bill. I would have had difficulty with Senator Brashear's bill even in its original intent because of where the money was going to go. I mean so I want to make that very clear to Senator Kristensen and also I want to make sure to make clear and I want to make sure that the legal counsel from Transportation looks to make sure that we don't do anything to harm the dollars going into the Highway Trust Fund, and I want to make sure that's certainly not an intent on any of these. With that, members of the Legislature, there are...you know, this amendment is very important because we're basically saying Senator Brashear has a two-part bill, one of which I don't think many people disagree with at all and that is we've got some success, let's market the success. We'll let people buy spirit plates. It will make them feel good. They can travel and show their support. They can renew them every year and that will raise some dollars. I don't think many people are opposed to that at all. Certainly I am not. But the second part is, okay, when we receive the dollars, what are we going to do with them? And I think it's very consistent that Senator Brashear and Senator Kristensen and Senator Chambers have said that the cause for the spirit plates to be able to be sold are certainly the athletes. And the first two portions that are after the dollars go to the Highway Trust Fund, the first two portions of it reflect that and I agree with that, those portions, wholeheartedly. But there is a possibility and it's only a possibility because people may buy, 30,000 people may buy the spirit plates one year, we lose 6 games the next year and everyone sells them and they'll be gone. I mean so we don't know how much money is going to be there. We don't know if there is going to be anything above \$5 million. We don't know if there will be anything over \$3 million. But we are saying something in regards to how we, in Nebraska, are spending some of the dollars that our success on the football field and volleyball field and wrestling and other places at the University of Nebraska, how we spend those dollars. One of the critical things that we are going to decide, and I know that they're going to pass, will be the property tax measures. And one of the things that will happen on the property tax measures is that the ability to obtain resources will be diminished by the levy caps in two years. The spending lids will bring some things to a halt immediately. But when you have the needs of students staying the same or increasing and the ability to gain revenue decreasing, more schools are going to become equalized school districts. And unless we increase that pot similar to