

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you. I have lights from Senator Kristensen, Crosby, and Brashear. I understood they wanted to speak to the bill so we will instead go to the closing. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My understanding is this is closing. I appreciate the work that Senator Kristensen of the committee has done. And, Senator Kristensen I don't want to put words in your mouth, but you have at least signed off on this amendment, have you not?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Yes.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Yes, Senator Kristensen has signed off on the amendment. I appreciate that. Senator Beutler has. Senator Brashear, are you comfortable at least with the amendment? Senator Brashear is comfortable with the amendment. I believe it does state the...at least it does the intent what Senator Brashear wanted to do but also sends a good message that we're also trying to help all of education. And in this case what the amendment will do is strike the word...let me rephrase it. What the bill would do with the agreement of this amendment is that obviously the dollars in the beginning go to the Highway Trust Fund. That has not changed. And, Senator Robinson, the Highway Trust Fund doesn't have anything to do with athletics, but that's neither here nor there. Three million dollars after that will go to the athletic postsecondary study program. If there's more money after that, \$2 million after that will go to the academic services. And if, if the public continues to buy annually the spirit plates, anything above the first \$5 million will go to University of Nebraska, the state colleges, for facilities to help with facility costs. And we all know that facilities are a major problem in the state even for athletes when they get into their scholarship program and they go to the schools and the buildings, this will help them as well. So this would be a portion that would help all Nebraskans. I think it's a good amendment and it also says that of that \$5 million that after the first \$5 million 10 percent will continue to go back into that postgraduate study program for the athletes which was the first part and I think Section 3(3) of the bill. That's the nature of the amendment and I would hope that the body would support it. And again, I appreciate the support for Senator Brashear, the sponsor of the bill, and Senator Kristensen, the