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I'm a little bit hesitant about Senator Wehrbein's amendment, not knowing too much about the NITC. I've always felt that the people nearest to the problem could solve this or see the solution best, and some of the people on the NITC, I doubt, have much experience in what we're dealing with here. However, if there's some way that they could possibly help out and lower the cost of the outside consultant to the state, that'd be great, so I probably will vote for the amendment. Back to Senator Schmitt's comments, we're...and several others, I am an EMT and it's very, very frustrating to be calling for help on a low-band radio, 39.8 megacycles. That's still technology the sheriffs, the fire departments, the ambulances in this state, in the rural areas anyway, are on. It's awfully...it's sometimes easier for me to talk to somebody in Texas when "skip's" hitting us than it is to, say, the sheriff's office in Red Willow County. We need to do something. We're going to have to arrange our priorities here to find this money. We've gone so far as to simply buy cell phones and put in some of our ambulance equipment, fire department equipment there at home and, believe me, it's better than what we have. So it's a very disjointed system. As far as cost of the result in the end, it's going to be borne, obviously, by the counties, the cities, the fire departments, ambulance services and, of course, the state's going to have their share too. But I don't want to restrict this thing to just the 800 "millahertz" (sic--megahertz) microwave area. We need to look maybe outside the box and at satellite communications and so on. So I think it's very important we get started on this. The outside consultants, it's very important we have somebody that can see this thing outside the box that we're working in here, and maybe the NITC can help us. I don't know. I'm new to the game here. Whether that's part of their mission or not, I don't know, but I am in strong support of the bill and will take no more time since we're getting sort of time. Thank you.

**PRESIDENT MAURSTAD:** Thank you, Senator Baker. Discussion on the Wehrbein amendment, Senator Brown.

**SENATOR BROWN:** Mr. President, members of the Legislature, it is just because of the comments that Senator Baker and Senator Schmitt made that we absolutely have to have the Wehrbein amendment. It's not about the inclusion of the NITC. It is