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looking for new members, they are, but with this day and age, with so many commitments they have with their families, business and so on, it's pretty darn tough. So if you can...if you have a fire department in your district that is up to full strength, you better be very thankful of that, and hopefully we can keep...keep that...keep it going and keep something in this state that we should be very proud of. Sometimes we take volunteers for granted and that is terrible, I think, and it takes something like this to wake people up to the fact what is happening and make the...make the volunteer firemen feel a little more appreciated. And, with that, thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Janssen. Senator Cudaback, please.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Mr. President, members, I think we all understand this issue. You give a little now, you save a whole lot later. That's just what it boils down to. We all know what attrition does, our fire...volunteer firemen are dropping, going away for responsibilities. I have one group in my area, they had over 450 fires last year. Think of that, over 450. That's men taking time out of their busy lives and employees (sic) letting them do this. Volunteers doing this, I mean, and some communities say we can't cope with this. We don't do something here to encourage more, why, I think it's...it's on the line. Many things we do here relate back to money; money, money, money. Well, this is one that really, really does relate back to dollars. If we don't spend a little now we're going to spend a whole lot more, and I just hope you all understand this. And thank you.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Senator Matzke, please.

SENATOR MATZKE: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I don't think there can be any dispute about the value to our state and our communities of the services rendered by volunteer firemen. I don't think that's the issue. I think the issue is whether this is the best approach to the problem of continuing and encouraging volunteerism, not only among volunteer firemen but also rescue units and EMS people, and I have a serious