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been denied the awards through no fault of their own. If there's any questions, I would be glad to answer them. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Hartnett. Those wishing to speak to the Hartnett amendment are Senator Hartnett, Senator Wehrbein, Senator Smith, Senator Stuhr, Senator Janssen. Senator Wehrbein, you're recognized to speak.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Mr. President, members, my concern with this bill originally was the distinction between the three different bodies involved--the Fire Marshal, PERB, and the Investment Council. And I think Senator Hartnett has worked hard to work that through, and I'm satisfied that we have those coordinated so that their job obligations are clear, that the accounting is adequate, and I think...I think it's a product that will work. The second issue to me is the policy. And I struggled with that some, frankly. But we are talking about volunteers across the state of Nebraska, and I recognize the concern that's going on out there as we have a declining pool of people that are willing to work. This does impose a burden on the state, potentially, of...I would call it a modest amount of money, I think the body ought to be aware of that. To me it's kind of how important do you think our volunteer system is across that state and what status or condition it is in today. But it appears to me, frankly, that we are having an increasing problem of getting people to work, to volunteer, because those that do tend to do that also then end up being...tend to be overworked. So I think it's important that we maintain this across the state, even though I recognize that many are going to say this is an expensive, or potentially at least an expensive way to do that. So I guess each of you will have to look at it that way. I don't want to take Senator Hartnett's bill away from him, but I think that has to be looked at as to whether we are going to have an adequate volunteer base across the state as time goes along, and if this is one of those answers. I think the ten year incentive is an encouragement for those that do work at that and get trained to stay, at least there is something at the end of the...I won't call it a rainbow, but at the end of their work life, that they can look forward to. It does give it...the Appropriations Committee and this body the determination as to how much money should go into this pool, whether it will be