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FLOOR DEBATE

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additional 3.8 percent, which comes to 7.6 percent last year, addition to what the other agencies took, and then, as I said, anticipating the ten percent cut this year. A couple other things that I wanted to emphasize is that this cash fund from the permits and the fees does most of the operating for the commission, over 80 percent. It is only relied...the state of Nebraska relies on about 20 percent for general funding. We talked...Senator Chambers yesterday remarked about rural development and economic development. And I think that this is certainly an area, in the hunting and fishing area, that rural certainly does gain some additional people coming from out of state, nonresidents. In fact, I have a report here that says the economic impact of all hunting activities in 2001, Nebraska, it is, in retail sales alone, \$232 million. So there is...and then there's a multiplier effect in regards to that. So talking about economic development and rural areas, this is certainly one area that we need to continue to update our facilities and also our education programs. I also have a breakdown...this is a very good report, the 2001 annual report of the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission...that breaks down all of the expenditures, all of the revenues, and makes it very easy to see where some of those funds are being spent. Yesterday also we talked a little bit about education. There's a large amount of money. There were 253 fishing workshops held; 14,000 Nebraska youth and adults attended clinics; 1,000 volunteers participated, nearly double those who helped previously. There are many different...a youth fishing program, outdoor education center, boating. There's also safety education in regards to boating. Many, many other educational services. Also some environmental services. I know I serve on the Natural Resources Committee, and COHYST is a hydrological study that's being done, dealing with water and the Platte River. And they are also...

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR STUHR: ...the Game and Parks Commission is also involved in this study. So, I believe that, again, this six percent does not mean that it is going to be a fee that they will impose every year. But this bill does allow for a range, a cap. With that, I'll close. Thank you.