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message to the NCAA. Again, Senator Brashear talked about empowering our university, and I think that's exactly what this does. So with that, I would...I propose that this Legislature send a message to the NCAA in support of LB 688, and return the rest of my time to the Chair.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Mines. Further discussion? Senator Johnson.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I did tell Senator Chambers that I would come up and be available to him, after talking to some students from Kearney here earlier in the morning. I had a discussion with Senator Chambers early this morning over a cup of coffee in the hallway. And what bothered me about what we're talking about is two things: perception, and it's perception in two places. One is perception regarding the University of Nebraska budget. We've talked about this a lot here this morning, as to...that this does not cost the state any money. But I can tell you, after being around the budget discussions yesterday, that will not be the perception around the state of Nebraska. What you will see in the coffee shops is, what in the world is the Legislature doing passing legislation where we pay football players when we can't adequately fund the university? So this is a problem to me. The other perception that I see is there are people around this country that think that Nebraska is a football factory. You can tell them all you want about the number of all-Americans that we have that are not the Associated Press all-Americans but are the academic all-Americans. This doesn't seem to register with them. And maybe this is a little bit of the self-consciousness that we Nebraskans have, but I feel that this is just one more instance where we give the people outside of Nebraska the opportunity to say that we don't care about anything except football. So these are the kind of problems that bother me. I certainly understand where Senator Chambers is coming from. He is absolutely right in that there is no question that universities around this country take advantage of poor, inner city kids in particular to glorify their university and make a lot of money for the university. You could probably say Nebraska does some of that as well. But at least Nebraska does do a very diligent job of trying to make sure that these players