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LB 759

remember back my first year, we had the mud flats and the ditch project and, you know, that was entertaining, probably, at the most. But I think we have an opportunity here to look at the public policy of the state. If we're going to do that, if we're going to be honest, I think we also have to be fair to the citizens. Now, there's not a citizen in the state that probably doesn't benefit from every one of these programs, especially if you live in some of these communities that receive direct funds from the cigarette tax. So I'm not disputing that, and I'm not saying that there shouldn't be the opportunity to do that, but I think what we can accomplish is, we can look at the process and say, do you need 2 cents from here until who knows when? We can still allocate a million dollars to the Nebraska Outdoor Recreation Development Cash Fund. We can still do that. But we haven't had a discussion on some of these since the late seventies. We've had a discussion on some of these since two years ago. And it's not sour grapes why I, you know, oppose or support one idea or another. I think it's the reality that we're in. We have a big problem, bigger than most of us will ever want to admit, honestly, because the people are looking at us to solve the problem. This isn't going to solve all of our problems. LB 759 is not going to solve all of our problems. There's got to be components and parts to make this thing work. So I have no problem standing in support of Senator Quandahl's amendment. I'm not afraid to discuss, and I'm not afraid to have the discussion. And I think we can make the rationale down the road for what dollar amount should be there. But I think it comes back to the bigger picture. And I think Senator Chambers is right on this issue, and that is, we have an opportunity to specifically point out priorities. Now, if we disagree on what those priorities are, obviously, that's going to happen. But I think as far as the role of government in the state of Nebraska, I think we have some specific priorities that we should look at first and foremost. And if this amendment helps us accomplish that, I think we can be more successful in the...at the end of the day, whether it be May 30 or June 2, to be able to go home to our legislative districts and said we did the people's business and we did it well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Erdman. Senator Chambers.