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FLOOR DEBATE

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people that vote for this, the board, it has to be 75 percent of the board to do so. And those 75 percent, all of those people, after that board meeting is over, they go back to their home communities and they have to answer. And I have been told...I haven't talked to all of them, I've talked to a couple...that they're not worried about that, because people generally realize what a valuable institution NECC is. There's no point in going over this multiple times. I think that's an explanation. If anyone has any questions, I will be glad to answer them. But I do ask for your support and your vote for AM1286. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Tyson. You've heard the opening on AM1286 by Senator Tyson. I stand corrected on Senator Raikes awhile ago. Open for discussion. Senator Beutler, followed by Senators Cunningham, Landis, Hartnett, Raikes, Bourne, Connealy. Senator Cunningham. Senator Beutler waives. Senator Cunningham.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker...or, Senator Cudaback, and members. I do rise up in support of this amendment. I can't say a whole lot more. Senator Tyson did a very, very good job of explaining the situation. I would tell you that LB 601 was going to be my priority bill this year. I've been...a lot of people up in the area had asked me to prioritize this bill, and I wasn't going to. I woke up in the middle of the night one Saturday night, and it just came to me that I need to prioritize this bill. And I know that will sound odd to you, from somebody that is conservative and doesn't like to raise taxes. But Northeast College is very, very important to our part of the state. They provide a very, very good education for the students up there. They do wonderful things for the business community, because of the education they give the students. And they do the long-distance learning for the high schools in our area. And with the cuts to state aid and everything else that's going on right now, we just can't afford to lose anymore of that also. The amount of tax that would go up is quite minimal. It will be an increase, but it is very, very minimal. The students that go to Northeast Community College pay a higher tuition rate than students that go to other community colleges throughout the state of Nebraska. As Senator Tyson told you, when the formula was put into place, back in, I