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LB 407

after, but their budget just keeps growing. And somebody please explain to me why all the rest of our state agencies are being cut but the Highway Trust Fund just keeps on arolling. It kind of reminds me of the old "Rawhide" song--keep 'em rolling, keep 'em rolling, keep them doggies rolling. Well, keep that Highway Trust Fund money rolling. It gets bigger every year. And I'm not saying highways aren't important, but I think if you balance it out, if you take \$6 million from the Highway Trust Fund and put \$6.5 million into higher education. And I haven't seen any cuts in the Highway Trust Fund in the last two years, the last general session, special session. Cuts to higher education affect all of us. I'm not a graduate of public education of higher education, but my son was and my two brothers and my brother-in-law, and I have five grandchildren that could very easily attend one of our institutions of higher education. I hope they do. I'd like to keep them strong. I'd like to keep the agriculture portion of our university strong. I said this morning that the University of Nebraska spends less on ag research than Kansas State does and, yet, we produce more value in agricultural commodities than the state of Kansas does. So take it or leave it, I guess, but I'm giving you an option, and I think it lessens the pain. It's \$3.25 million over a two-year period of time. I think it helps out and someone please tell me why all the state agencies that the Natural Resources Committee deals with has taken a 12 percent cut and, yet, the Department of Roads and the Highway Trust Fund just keeps on arolling. I don't understand it. Why is that off the table? Now you can vote for this and vote against taking the money from the Highway Trust Fund, but I figure we need an offset, so that's what I plan on doing should this be successful. I've had several people sign on this amendment with me. I do appreciate that. Thank you for your time and I would appreciate your consideration on this amendment. I think it's the right thing to do.

SENATOR CUDABACK: You've heard the opening on AM1912, offered by Senator Schrock to LB 407. Open for discussion. Senator Wehrbein, followed by Senator Beutler. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Mr. President, members. Senator Schrock, you really know how to hurt a guy. I want to do this,