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FLOOR DEBATE

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paid fire department by the town and then it does man the rural volunteer fire also. It looks like you had a little problem in the area. (Laughter) But I'll try to continue and contain my thoughts as we need volunteers in this area. But the thing about it is in the area where we have the paid firefighters that do deliver the trucks to the scene of the fire department of the fires, the volunteers do not attend that very regular. They're saying, you know, very few volunteers ever show up at the fires. So, but I almost can't get the rest of my thoughts together anymore because I see springs laying around here on the floor. Really, that kind of fell apart on me.

SENATOR CUDABACK: As long as they aren't yours.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Okay. So with that, I'm very much in favor of this. I think this changing it over to this situation, what this bill does, is that it develops some consistency in this program so that the forestry and the people of the volunteer departments know that this program will be continued. So with that, I'll return the balance of my time to the Chair. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Stuthman. On with discussion, Senator Engel.

SENATOR ENGEL: Mr. Speaker, if I was still on the volunteer fire department in South Sioux City, I'd be rushing over to the desk over there to see if I could be of some assistance. If he would have needed mouth-to-mouth, I'm afraid he'd have gone on to a better world. But these rural fire departments are so important in our state, especially up in my area, and without them, the tax...many of our small towns without this bill would not have a fire department at all because that's...so many of these small communities, that's the only fire equipment they have. So I think it's very, very important that we have them. And when you get the fire trucks, the fire equipment, along with that, in so many small communities you also get the rescue department, and that's very important for these small communities, too, because they are remote. They are away from the bigger towns. And if someone reaches them in time, getting them to a facility where they can be treated, you save so many