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FLOOR DEBATE

March 19, 2004      LB 917

We went through the Dutch Elm disease once upon a time, and any of you around can remember that. There was some of these towns looked pretty shaggy and the cost to disposing of those trees was enormous, was way more than what the cost of the funding that will be done to fund this Forest Service at the present time. These are things that are all...all will help us along the way. I think it was a mistake when they cut the funding out of it by the university. I don't think they realized what they were doing when they vertically cut it. I think they thought it was something that wouldn't make much difference. And when it came down that they realized that the...not only the fire suppression but the environmental work that went along with it. The NRDs are connected with the Forest Service. This is something that it's a lot larger in scope than what anybody thinks. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Louden. Further discussion? Seeing none, Senator Wehrbein, you're recognized to close on advancement of LB 917.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Mr. President and members. You've heard the discussion, and I think I won't say much more except to say that this was cut. It wasn't just reduced, this was cut. So this is restoration of funds to that that I think is vitally necessary to all Nebraska. And it is as minimum as we can make the A bill or the amount of dollars. It's a phased back in but we are sharing. So there's a cooperative effort between us and the university, that I think we need to recognize also. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Question before the body is advancement of LB 917 to E & R Initial. All in favor of the motion vote aye, those opposed nay. The question before the body is advancement of LB 917 to E & R Initial. Have you all voted who care to? Record please, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 30 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 917.

SENATOR CUDABACK: LB 917 does advance. Mr. Clerk, next agenda item.