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network of connections in the state of Nebraska between high schools, fiberoptic technology and so on, is one of the best in the nation. We are privileged to be very well connected in that regard. I don't know that you can point to any one reason for that. It's been sort of a collaborative effort involving schools, ESUs, organizations that are known as distance education consortia, that have arisen over the years; and certainly as well, the Legislature in providing funding, some through lottery money, I believe, to enhance this capacity. The problem we face is the following. This is all controlled, or these...for the most part, these connections between high schools are controlled by contracts with telecom providers in the state that provide for the operation of this fiberoptic system. These contracts begin ending in the year 2006. And by 2009, they have pretty much all ended. So there is an emergency appearing in that if these contracts are allowed to expire, then we will...without some help, without some action by the Legislature, we will begin to have as many as 180 of the school systems in the state drop off the edge of the earth in terms of connectivity. They will no longer be connected with other school systems or with other ESUs and so on by the fiberoptic network. So one problem is that these...this connectivity is operated by a series of contracts. These contracts begin to expire in 2006. The...an additional characteristic is that the way this fiberoptic network is now being operated is with a protocol, and I'm liable to very soon start telling you more than I really know; a protocol that's described to be as streaming JPEG or JPEG. And I meant to look up the initials for JPEG and I haven't done that. I'll do that. At any rate, this protocol is becoming obsolete. In language that I am more familiar with, if you need parts to fix this JPEG protocol, you have to go to the junkyard to buy them. They're not available anymore. So what we're looking at is upgrading the system so that it has a more current, more recent up-to-date technology, in addition...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR RAIKES: ...along with establishing new contracts that would provide for services to the school systems. That is...I want to emphasize that because that is the reason for the urgency here, and I will describe it as urgency. This, I will