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LB 689A

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I stand in opposition of the bracket motion. But I do just want to make a couple comments. Senator Chambers and I are probably in the same generation. And I can tell you that we live in an age of technology today. My grandchildren know more about computers than I would ever hope to know. They've grown up with it. They live with it. I know that the students in our high schools, most of them will teach the teachers, you know, how to operate the computers. And that's what we're talking about, is this distance education, which provides classes to students across the state who don't have opportunities to have access to many of these classes. And I did find some information that foreign languages and literature classes are probably the number one type of classes that are taught, particularly because many of the small schools and rural schools and schools across the state do not have access to all of the foreign languages that are being required of students today. Also, social sciences and history is another area. I particularly appreciated the remarks from Senator Kopplin, because he has had experience as a superintendent in knowing exactly what is required of many of the schools today. And unfortunately, that is the age that we're living in. And we know, when we buy a computer, by the time we get it home, it's probably...it's beginning to be outdated. I mean, technology changes very, very quickly. And that's what we're facing. I do agree that it is unfortunate that we didn't have some prior information in knowing that these contracts were about to become obsolete, and that's what we're talking about. Yesterday I tried to share with you that...and we talked a little bit about this JPEG, this codec, and some of the network upgrades, that that's where we're looking, actually, at a cost of about \$5 million. And that is looking at 60 school districts. As we've talked about, I'm...I would hope that we could just move on the amendment and then also address the other amendments that are before us. But as we are looking at this yellow sheet, we are looking at, as what has been said before, experts that have gotten together and looking at the costs of what it will cost to replace some of this technology and update it: in fiscal '06 and '07, about \$5 million for this JPEG; the Network Nebraska support, about \$441,000; and then the total "e-learning" and