TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

March 14, 2006 LB 1208

SENATOR LOUDEN: As...the people that I talk to out in the western end of the state, they usually don't use that, because they go through Wyoming because it's cheaper to pick up their service, is my understanding. And then I think you mentioned to Senator Fischer that schools in the eastern part of Nebraska don't use it, but it...more west of Grand Island. My understanding is that there isn't any of this uses this much of this west of Ogallala, because of your...ESU 16 is about the last one that's got this available. So what are we trying to do by having this network and this provider, and we're supposed to get incentives and stuff, but yet we...can the schools in the western part of Nebraska be able to tap into this thing? Is the technology there for it to work?

SENATOR RAIKES: A couple of points on that, Senator: One is that first they would be allowed to continue to do what they're now doing. But in addition, a couple of things. They would have access to Network Nebraska and the Chief Information Officer, by which they could take advantage of a negotiator or...yeah, negotiations based on large volume. So hopefully, they could come through that mechanism, they could come up with a better deal than they're now getting. But if that isn't the case, then they're certainly free to continue doing what they're now doing.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Well...

SENATOR RAIKES: The other thing about the eastern end of the state...well, excuse me. Go ahead, I...

SENATOR LOUDEN: Well, what I was asking...what they were mentioning is that they found a provider, I guess they go with Sprint or somebody out there, and they said it was about \$2,000 a month, where if they work with Internet Nebraska or another provider from eastern Nebraska it was going to cost them about \$10,000 for the same bid. So I'm wondering if we're doing something that's improving the education of the entire state or, you know, where are we improving education at? If part of the state can't get ahold of it, is there any point in having it out there for them, I guess?