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funding their local attractions through lodging taxes. Once again, I hope you look at what I passed out. It's a copy of this transcript, and in there, and during the debate on this original \$5 million that was put in, it was said that, you know, hopefully, there's a strong enough position where this fund, then, will not have to come back to the state to ask for additional funds. They can continue the programs they're doing. I don't think it's right that we are being asked to fund this endowment again. I think my amendment for the \$1.5 million is reasonable. As I said, that figure is reached, if you account for the growth of inflation at 3 percent on that original \$5 million that was put in, it would now be \$6.5 million. I don't know if we should even give \$1.5 million, to be honest with you. I hope you support this amendment. If you put in the \$1.5 million, that then gets that endowment at a 3 percent growth rate, up to \$6.5 million. If you look at what the arts councils and the humanities council have been funding, they've paid out \$400,000 one year in grants, \$800,000, \$600,000 \$100,000, \$700,000, \$300,000.

SENATOR BAKER: One minute.

SENATOR FISCHER: I happen to think that's a lot of money. Do I wish we could put in more? Yes. But as I said, I think this is a reasonable amendment. I think the \$1.5 million is reasonable; it can be justified, and I hope you will consider that. Thank you.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Senator Fischer. Senator Stuhr, you're recognized, followed by Senator Erdman and Senator Beutler, and others.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. At this time I do support Senator Fischer's amendment. I do think that it is a reasonable amount. I too believe in the arts, and I think we have some wonderful artists in the state, and we have some wonderful treasures to see. But I was also here in 1998 when we talked about that this was going to be a one-time endowment, and I know that there are not too many of us that are actually remaining, maybe 15, 17 of us, that were here in 1998. If we are going to talk about tourism, I think, then,