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FLOOR DEBATE

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people stop at that arch in Kearney, but they can't find an exit to get off. So anyway, that's my two cents. Thank you for your time.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. On with discussion. Senator Smith. The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do see five hands. The question before the body is, shall debate cease on AM2761 to the Appropriations Committee amendment? All in favor vote aye; opposed, nay. Voting on ceasing debate on the Fischer amendment, AM2761. Have you all voted on the question who care to? Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 1 nay, Mr. President, to cease debate.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Debate...it was successful. Debate does cease. Senator Fischer, I recognize you to close on AM2761.

SENATOR FISCHER: Thank you, Mr. President and members. Once again, I would like to stress that this amendment is to decrease the \$5 million appropriation to the endowment, to decrease that to \$1.5 million. I've already negotiated. There are members in here who wanted it zero. My first amendment that I substituted this current amendment for was at \$1 million. As I said, I think I can justify the \$1.5 million, because it does take into account the inflationary growth. We've already negotiated. This is not an attack on the arts. What we need to be thinking about here is, let's be responsible. If you're talking about economic development, and especially in rural Nebraska, I have to disagree that this is the vehicle that I believe would achieve that. Last year, we talked about rural economic development and the packages, and we in rural Nebraska had to fight, had to argue, had to quibble, over less than \$1 million to help some of those bills. But now we see \$5 million going to economic development. That's how this is being cloaked. I don't appreciate that. The arts are important. That is not the question with this amendment. The question is, should we be fiscally responsible? You know, we have some money now, at least, some people in here think we have some money now, that the state can spend. We've had to cut programs. You know, I traveled my district this summer and this fall, and I told my