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the citizens in that particular area to be enriched by the arts and the humanities. Therefore, I think it's appropriate that the state, through this private-public partnership, provide this opportunity for every nook and cranny in the state of Nebraska. Now there's been some discussion relative to a decrease in federal funding and that's one of the reasons why we're being asked to look at this Cultural Trust Fund. That may be the case where there has been some reduction in federal funding. But that reduction at federal funding is not as a result of fiscal concerns. Let's don't pat our federal government on the back too heartily yet because they haven't decreased spending either. They've put forth a balanced budget but that's a lot different from cutting spending. Spending continues to go up at the federal level also so let's don't pat them too heartily on the back. The reduction in funding in the arts at the national level is political. It is not fiscal. There is a lack of support at the national level because, as Senator Engel mentioned, there is some art that certain political members of our House and Senate have difficult in supporting because their constituents don't support it. That's different than looking at this from a fiscal concern. This is a political situation in which the citizens of our state, therefore, suffer as the result of, in some people's opinion, bad judgment at the national level. Those types of problems, those types of controversies have not occurred in the state of Nebraska, and I don't believe they will occur in the state of Nebraska because of the people that are involved in a volunteer basis...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: ...supporting the arts and the humanities in Nebraska. One of the reasons why I think this funding is appropriate is for that very reason. I think they've used good judgment in what they've supported. I believe they've used good judgment in the grants that they provide to local entities. I think they've used good judgment in what they have provided to the young people in our schools across the state who would not have access to this type of culture without them. So I think we need to show our support for what is being done right here in Nebraska. It is fiscally sound. In the long term it will be beneficial to the taxpayers of this state. It certainly is culturally. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.