

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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and you need to pay close attention to, I'm sure Senator Wehrbein will also mention this, LB 446 has a fiscal note, and our Legislative Fiscal Analyst estimate over the next biennium is \$608,400, a little over \$600,000, and that is basically to hire a consultant and to put together the suggested recommendations and to prepare an RFP. At the end of that fiscal note is a letter which I think is pretty informative from the Division of Communications of the state, signed by Brenda Decker, the acting director at the present time, and it's just a letter that I would encourage you to read. It kind of helps me understand why we need money in LB 446; what their vision of the project is, to some extent; and also it gives us a little history about this started two or three years ago. The Division of Communications explored this option with NFPD and actually thought about a private-public partnership for this project, and...and that's explained in that letter and I would encourage you to read it. Once the...once this board has completed their specifications and plan with the assistance of a consultant, and got the dollar figures together, they will come back to the Legislature and the Governor and it will be our job to figure out if their recommendation is acceptable and, if it is, how we're going to pay for it, what our suggested means of payment will be, and that lies down the road a ways. And I'd suggest that we focus more on this step at this point. I think this step is the logical next step towards something that we've needed to do probably for a long, long time. I thank Senator Tyson for spending quite a bit of his staff time and his own time on this project. I think without someone to push something like this, it just never gets done, so I appreciate his leadership in that area. I'll stop at that point, Mr. Lieutenant Governor, and wait for the discussion. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Wehrbein would move to amend. Senator, I have AM0515 in front of me. (See page 719 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body.