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SENATOR TYSON: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. Before I speak to the Wehrbein amendment, I want to take just about one minute to thank not only Senator Bromm but the...all the members of the Transportation Committee for making this a committee bill. When I testified to this bill in their committee, I made a statement that I will repeat here. I think that the long-term ramifications of LB 446 may very well serve to make it one of the most important bills that we consider, and I hope pass, this year. This is a long-term project. Senator Wehrbein is absolutely correct when he says it's going to be a very, very expensive project over years. But the consequences of us not dealing with this problem now will only serve to exasper...exacerbate, sorry about that, some of the problems that the public servants of Nebraska are experiencing now. There are four distinct and incompatible systems being used by public safety and public servants across the state now. I'll just use one example that you're all familiar with, and that was the bombing of the Murrah Building in Oklahoma City, with hundreds of people dead. A hundred and seventeen different agencies, local through federal, responded with over 1,500 people. Would you like to know how they communicated in the early and most urgently needed hours following that? They were blocked on communication, totally. They used runners. We were back to the first World War where they used runners to get communication between people who had to communicate. Later on, a private cellular phone company came in and passed out cellular phones and they were instantly blocked, and then that same cell phone company provided priority access channels and the blockage went down to 2 percent. But the time had passed. Now, pray God, nothing ever like that happens in the state of Nebraska, but nobody is immune to natural disasters, to prairie fires, those...the situation that you saw on television a few years ago when they had forest fires in the state of Florida--over 6,500 people fighting close to 2,000 fires. They didn't have communication that they could use between themselves. This is a situation that was first brought to my attention by some people in my locale. I started talking to people across the state and the problems were the same, and they're going to be the same. We had a murder several years ago in Norfolk. The police were in the process of apprehending the people. Their communication was picked up on a scanner and broadcast over a radio station.