

they really...if it's that important, they have the money now to get it done with what we've appropriated. So I'm going to be voting against the Hall amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Hillman.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Madam Chairman, members of the body, there are two sites that are included in this bill and I guess I would like to explain the site at Scottsbluff and Western Community College, maybe a little bit better. The RHEN Program is one component that is being brought out as far as needing the hookup and being able to tie into NEB\*SAT. What we're talking about here really is the total NEB\*SAT Program, which was never a part of the University of Nebraska, part of their budget or part of their purpose. It was initiated back in Governor Orr's Administration and it's always been a Governor's initiative. NEB\*SAT I, II has been funded; NEB\*SAT III and IV have not, and what we're looking at is a component in NEB\*SAT III that was at the Appropriations Committee. Some of us even thought that it was funded at that time when we went through it. What it does, it will enhance the RHEN Program, it will assist; that it will tie campuses together in Scottsbluff and Gering and throughout the Panhandle. We do have the room for it. We can operate on what is being proposed in this particular amendment and it would help not only the RHEN Program, but it would continue to assist with our MBA program, with communications between Chadron, the University of Nebraska at Panhandle Station, and our community college. It's one piece of a large program in looking at our infrastructure in western Nebraska for the Telecommunication Postsecondary Education and technological centers, all those things that enter into NEB\*SAT. It is not just the RHEN Program. It is the total distanced learning program in western Nebraska and I would urge the adoption of this amendment. Now if North Platte does not need it, we could amend the amount, but I would like keep the Scottsbluff-Gering site in the amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Hillman. Does anyone else wish to speak to this amendment? Seeing none, would you like to close, Senator Hall? Senator Chizek, would you like to close?

SENATOR CHIZEK: Just a few comments, then I'll give my remaining time to Senator Coordsen. I think everybody's familiar with what this is. We discussed it yesterday and again today. Unfortunately, yesterday there was some concern about