

SENATOR HORGAN: ...should not happen this year because I think we've asked the citizens of Nebraska, across the state, over the last couple of years, to increase their sales and income taxes more than enough. And now we need to look at some additional sources of revenue that are more targeted. Tax increases are not popular, but they are sometimes necessary. And I think LB 22 is one way for us to raise some of the revenue that we need. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Horgan. Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. Since our fearless leader is having a voice problem, I think maybe some of the Appropriations Committee should be helping him a little. And when Senator Bernard-Stevens said a couple of things, it rang a little bell. And Senator Hillman is not here, so I'd like...what I'm going to say is the kind of thing that Joyce Hillman looks at on Appropriations Committee. She's a very thoughtful and intelligent member on that committee, and she necessarily looks at greater Nebraska. And so I think those of you from what we call God's country, or for whatever outside of Lincoln and Omaha, need to look at those two things that Senator Bernard-Stevens was talking about, NEB*SAT, the Nebraska Satellite technology through educational television. That brings education to, through satellite, to secondary, elementary, higher education. Students out in that part of the state have benefitted so much, young, old, in between, they have benefitted so much from that technology. And you'll notice on priority two there are some numbers in there that would help ETV continue and use that program in even a better way. So, as I said earlier, when I opened, I'm talking for Joyce today because Joyce Hillman is your voice for greater Nebraska on appropriations. And Senator Bernard-Stevens is, too. But I think he will agree with me that Joyce really speaks out, always, for the people out in the...outside of Lincoln and Omaha who do not have that urban area to draw from for many things. And when you stop to think that there is no higher education entity, school, college west of Kearney, stop and think, big group out there. So that satellite system is so important to them. And so as we talked yesterday, and some people have said this morning you will not go for an increase in general sales tax or anything, you've got to do some things that will help preserve those programs. So again, go back in that grey book, look on the priority two list and see what it is, see what it is and explain to your constituents what it is that we're trying to