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Testimony on LB 1100

John Owens

University of Nebraska–Lincoln,, jowens2@unl.edu

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Testimony on LB 1100
Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture
Deficit Appropriations
February 7, 2002

Chairman Wehrbein and members of the Appropriations Committee, my name is John Owens. I am the NU Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources and am here today on behalf of the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture.

Thank you for allowing me the time today to visit with you regarding the deficit request of \$39,500 for the College. While this is not a large sum of money, it is significant in terms of the small and tight budget for NCTA.

The deficit request is to help cover the college's budget shortfall carried forward from last-fiscal-year resulting from lower-than-anticipated tuition-income because ~~since~~ actual-enrollments were less than projected. This shortfall by itself could have managed until the situation was compounded by NCTA's budget being adjusted downward during the special session.

Knowing revenues were short of projections, NCTA held back on expenditures to the extent that it could. However, with a small budget and so much of the budget committed to faculty-and-staff salaries, it is difficult to make significant-cutbacks and meet expenses essential to carry out the basic NCTA program.

Recognizing the state is short of funding itself, this request is not to ask for additional funds, but for the authority to move money from one existing NCTA account to another (from Capital Construction to Operating). Specifically we are proposing to move \$39,500 of savings from the purchase of property for the college previously appropriated by the Legislature.

To the operating budget

The Legislature appropriated \$236,250 to NCTA last regular session to purchase property for the irrigation and fertilizer technology programs. However, the appraised value was less than the seller was asking for so savings of \$39,500 remained after the purchase price, purchasing costs, and the special session budget-rescission of five percent were removed. So this provides an opportunity to help NCTA through a tight budget situation without the need for new funds.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today. I would be pleased to respond to any questions you might have.

DEAN DON WOODBURN

AST. V.C. ALAN MOELLER

Facts to help answer questions:

Actual NCTA deficit carried forward-- \$45,850

Original legislative appropriation for property-- \$236,250,

Special session 5% rescission reduced to \$224,437.

Johnson 161 acres purchased by Board of Regents December, 01-- \$182,000

Final purchase price after adding selling costs-- \$184,766.

FY 2001-03 budget rescission for NCTA's --\$106,767 (accumulated two year).

FY 2003 permanent reduction for NCTA- \$60,878

NCTA FY 2002 Budget:

Revolving Funds	613,717
General Funds	2,294,438
Cash Funds	<u>653,747</u>
Total	\$3,561,902