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LB 248, 904

immediately--to offset the impact to equalized school districts. And so there are a multitude of things that I just was not comfortable with voting to advance the bill. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Brown. (Visitors introduced.) On with discussion of AM2605, offered by Senator Baker to LB 248. Senator Raikes.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I want to be clear that I certainly commend Senator Baker for his effort here. He is behaving as a good Transportation Chair should. He is trying very hard to get money into road building, which is certainly his job. In this particular case, he's taking it out of the General Fund. This is not the context that we should be having this discussion. He's got a bill, I think, LB 904, that's coming up, that would transfer a significant amount of money out of the General Fund into the Highway Trust Fund. This...perhaps in that context we could discuss this as a possibility, but this \$3 million we should not do. This is just...it's the wrong time. It's out of context. It's not a part of the broader discussion, and I would urge you not to support this amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Raikes. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Baker, I'm still trying to figure out what's happening here a little bit. Let me be...let me just ask you a couple questions, just so I'm sure as to what's happening. As I understand it, there's this pot of money that was going to the counties and then distributed pro rata in each county to all the political subdivisions therein, and that this money is being taken and put into the Highway Allocation Fund. Now the Highway Allocation Fund, by that you mean the 50-some percent that usually goes to the state is not going to go to the state, right? So all of the \$7 million will go over to the cities and the counties. It will be divided into two pots, and that will be by the old formula that existed. So that's the scheme of what happens. So the cities and the counties will benefit greatly, by virtue mainly of taking the school districts' money and using that. And the school districts will be reimbursed in part, at least--in large part--for what happens. And there will