

appropriations, if the local community wishes to issue bonds for any of these purposes, they certainly can have the stability of their local revenue to do it with, and then if you wish to make just a general increase to municipalities as state aid, that, obviously, can be done and will serve the identical purpose of this...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR WARNER: ...as far as they are locally concerned, but you would maintain the kind of flexibility the state ought to have. There isn't any question but what the cigarette tax traditionally has been used for capital construction projects, even beyond what the statute sometimes require, and there are immense needs in that area, clear across the state, that are going to have to be addressed, in part this session, but, certainly, they are going to be addressed over the next few sessions. Any reduction of the state to provide the revenue to do those variety of capital construction projects are going to delay the implementation of those as well. I would urge that you do not get away from that very basic position of not putting the state in the position where a portion of its revenue is going to be tied up by one single community out of that 537 by the issuance of bonds for the next 20 years.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Scofield, please, followed by Senator Ashford.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Thank you, Mr. President and members. This is probably one of the most difficult bills I have had to deal with this session. My name is on it and I will tell you why it is on it in a minute. But, obviously, I am not inclined generally to depart from the policy of my committee. Senator Landis talks about the Greek chorus. I am not going to sing exactly the same tune that you have heard everybody else sing today, and yet I have some concerns about this bill. I do not disagree with any of the concerns that anybody has raised here today. It does erode the state tax base. And, Senator Chambers, you are right, you do give the majority of the money to the big guys, and you know where I come from that doesn't sell very well, and, yet, what I hear from all those little guys is, well, look, we know that just to get a few bucks we always have to give a few million to Omaha. We have sort of accepted that is the way the world is and, frankly, folks, we need those few bucks. So I guess I would also agree that probably many of