

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Lindsay, please.

SENATOR LINDSAY: I move the adoption of the E & R amendments to LB 311.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Shall the E & R amendments be adopted to 311? All in favor say aye. Opposed no. Carried. They are adopted.

CLERK: Mr. President, I now have amendments to the bill by Senator Scofield. Senator, this is your amendment on page 1764 of the Journal.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Scofield.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Thank you, Mr. President. I am going to withdraw this amendment, and Senator Landis has an amendment coming on down the track here a ways, but before I do that, I want to have an opportunity to talk about why I offered this particular amendment. And you will notice as well that I had requested an Attorney General's opinion on this bill, which you can find on page 1754 of the Journal. I had some concerns about the financing mechanism proposed in 311, given the arrangements proposed by Senator Landis, that we probably had some constitutional problems, and so I had offered this amendment as a possible way of dealing that, and I also wanted to make it clear that we were not defining NIFA as a municipality. I am going to withdraw this but I wanted to reference you to the Attorney General's Opinion, if you haven't had a chance to do this, and I would like to commend Senator Landis's staff, Charlie, who is sitting over here under the balcony. He spent hours working on this trying to address my concerns and, frankly, I just don't think we have been able to do it, but it isn't because they haven't tried. They had tried very, very hard. My concern about this issue is based on a lot of things are happening at the federal level right now, which, as I recall Senator Landis's letter to us, is why he brought us this bill in the first place. You have on your desk a couple of handouts, which I distributed this morning, talking about the status...one is titled "Sewage Treatment Grant Funding Threatened". Frankly, the status of sewage treatment grant funds to states are still potential targets at the federal level for funding reductions. You have a handout dated April 18th to that effect which comes from NCSL that I would encourage you to take a look at. This is an area that doesn't have much glamor surrounding it but it is