

federal government is going to give us money and whether or not a revolving loan mechanism is a good one for small towns. I think Senator Scofield has given us a good idea of a direct grant program that the state would run. I have accepted it into the bill. That is I think a good faith effort on my part on that score. Frankly, the rules are being called from the federal level on the revolving fund. It may not...it may prejudice small towns. That is a possibility but that is something for Congress to change, not us. With respect to the question of NIFA, actually, this authority could be exercised by NIFA or by the Conservation Corporation Bond Authority that we have created, and the question is, that she raises is, what is an appropriate mechanism for repayment. I have acknowledged that state appropriations are not appropriate and I have walled those monies off. I do not have a signal that either interest, federal money, or city repayment money are not available or unacceptable methods for securing those bonds. Let me conclude by saying this, that there are two camps of legal thought here, the AG's office and the Kutak, Rock office. From what I can tell by the AG's office, they cited one section, and I have changed that section, so I think their questions are answered. But even if they haven't been answered, the AG's office and Kutak, Rock have been to court once before. The AG's office said that NIFA was unconstitutional, and Kutak, Rock took them to the Supreme Court and beat them on every count. If I have to put my money on one legal counsel or the other, Kutak, Rock's expertise here has been vindicated in court over and above the Attorney General's analysis on several occasions. Frankly, admittedly, there is a question on any bill we pass. Is this a good way, an option to have? The answer to my mind is, yes, it is. It is something we can put in our back pocket for a rainy day if we need to use it, or we can use it immediately to leverage more federal money, and we ought to have as many financial operations and as many financial options available to us to meet this critical need in all corners and in all sizes of cities in this state as we can have. LB 311 is one of those. I urge its advancement. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. You have heard the closing. Those in favor of advancement of the bill vote aye, opposed nay. Voting on the advancement of the bill. Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: (Mike off) in the body have not yet vote, I am reluctant to call for a call of the house, although I didn't hear a call for a machine vote earlier on. I am surprised there