

standing and supporting this proposition that says it's unfair that we're not giving more money to rural districts. Well, you can't really have it both ways. You can't say get rid of Phase I that benefitted the rural people, and then stand up and criticize the sponsors of 89 for pushing an urban bill, because we're not the ones that made it an urban bill, it's those people that brought the amendments to strike Phase I from the bill. Now I have said, both to Herb Schimek and other members of the body, I have no objection to returning this bill back to its form when it was a \$25 million bill with Phase I in it. I, frankly, wouldn't have a great deal of problem even supporting the Smith amendment, if there was more money back into it so that those dollars that are now going to be shifted wouldn't be shifted out of some districts into others, but there would be more money left to hold people harmless. Unfortunately, this bill is coming up at the last moment. Unfortunately, as I understand it, there was no desire or no willingness to do that, to say that we'll put any more money back into the bill. At 20 million dollars...supposedly 20 million dollars was agreed to, so that's gospel. You know, taking Phase I out of the bill was, I thought, also part of the process, and that does not appear to be as ironclad a commitment, which is fine. People have a right to change their mind and do different things.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thirty seconds.

SENATOR WITHEM: But I guess the point I'm making is that the reason the bill is now in the shape where some people may not think that it treats small, rural Class I districts as well as they'd like to see it is because Phase I was taken out of the bill. And Phase I was taken out of the bill because many of those senators supporting this amendment wanted it taken out. At this late date, the bill may not be perfect, but it's what we have before us. And we should not be returning it, we should not be amending it, we should be leaving it in the form that its in now and we should be passing it.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time has expired.

SENATOR WITHEM: I urge you to oppose this amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Schellpeper.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I rise to support Senator Smith's amendment. I want to remind the