

will look and turn my light on again and look for that second point. Thank you.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, in the past we have paid for wastewater funds through a grant program in which the federal monies given us a pot of money; state, you come up with a one to five matching and you can give this to cities to spend. We have ladled it out and we've given it to people in need. The federal government, through the Reagan years, said, wait a second, this is an endless process; this is not going to work because there is so much need out there; states, we want to encourage you into a revolving fund. No longer will cities be given it as a grant; it will be a revolving fund. Now, states, you can pay as you go. You can leverage some federal money on these last four or five years where we're going to make money available, you can leverage federal money, stick it in your own fund; add year in, year out your own monies, whatever you want, give it to your cities and then have your cities repay it; you can structure the revolving loan fund as you wish but do not look to the federal government to operate our program ad nauseam. We won't. We're coming to an end. Here's the balloon of money. Go out, match against it, start a revolving fund. Now, the pressure to have a revolving fund comes absent LB 311. That comes from federal directives, so we're moving that direction. That has, by the way, its own problems for small towns or whomever because if you don't have a lot of money to repay a loan it's hard to get the loan in the first place, because your repayment is hard to do, a costly item will remain expensive and the loan mechanism may be uncomfortable. Actually, the only method to do that, by the way, now becomes LB 311 with its grant program language. But the federal government says, here's a last balloon of money, come and get it, and you can leverage against your share. Now, we've always done General Fund appropriations. That's where our matches come from and we continue to do that. It's in the budget this year, two plus million dollars are there. We either have before us the future of an endless stream of General Fund appropriations to do our share of matching and to put our share of money into the revolving fund, or we front-load through bonds. LB 311 allows the front-loading of the state match, the front-loading of this pot of money to be lent to cities, and allows us to leverage the maximum amount of federal funds. Is it a new phenomenon? Yes, it is. What is the new phenomenon? That in moving from the grant to the revolving loan program we are front-loading through a bond mechanism actually in addition