

SENATOR SCHMIT: Would it be possible to utilize this same type of funding for the development of solid waste sites for the (inaudible)?

SENATOR LANDIS: I do not know that a pot of federal money exists, and I do not know federal authorization. This bill is tailored to fit with and has been negotiated in concert with the EPA. If you tell me that EPA has a matching program for solid waste, it's possible that this mechanism would work there in that setting as well. But it is specifically because the EPA has worked with a number of states to do exactly this that we know it applies in this area. Solid waste maybe. I can't say "yes" for sure. The answer would lie in federal law.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Is there any reason, Senator Landis, why the federal government resources could not be utilized through the...by the private system of financing bonds and for the cities for the same kind of a purpose?

SENATOR LANDIS: Cities certainly could issue their own bonds, they certainly could.

SENATOR SCHMIT: What is the principal reason for NIFA wanting to become involved? I well recall the establishment of NIFA. It was sort of son of a number of industrial loan programs in the city, home financing program and then an ag financing program, and then Governor Kerrey came in and made it his highest priority so it became NIFA. And since that time any responsibility that they ever felt they had toward agricultural financing has gone down the drain. There have been some home loans financed and there have been a few other industrial loans, but principally it's been a financing mechanism for so-called low-income, first time homeowners, and I might add those low-income homes have now reached almost into the upper five figures, almost six figure loans for homes, far in excess of what we started out with. I really don't know if this is a good idea or not. I have not been in support of the bill. I understand where they're coming from, I understand why they're doing it, but I have some deep concerns about the fact that once we get on this kind of financing mechanism without the oversight of the (inaudible). I'm not sure that we're going to have the best kind of financing, number one, and, number two, I would expect that the requirements that will come down from the federal government through the Environmental Protection Agency will become more and more stringent and the penalties for