

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. Very briefly, LB 1091 was a bill that I was very much involved in with many members of the body, particularly with the help of Senator Scofield and the Appropriations Committee. And we did set a good precedent two years ago. And I don't really have too, and in fact I don't have any problems supporting such a bill, even if my county, which it's easier, Senator Carson, Senator Rogers, I understand for me to stand up and support it because my county is going to be one that benefits, and that does make it a lot easier, easier to do. But the way I've looked at whether it be the railroad lawsuit or the pipeline case, what have you, it's money that was originally there that, through no fault of the counties, is going to have to be... is simply not going to be there. And this is one of those that the Legislature can say, gee, we know you didn't plan on this, it's one of those things that just happened, it was a legal matter, and we can help you for this one time, but don't come back and ask us again, because you're going to have to find how to deal with those losses in years to come, assuming that things do not develop with some of the things that we did in the special session. Hopefully that special session will prove to be fruitful. So I hope that the body does support the amendment offered by Senator Johnson is a good amendment, it's a well thought out amendment in terms that it does give the Governor a choice. The Governor, if we pass the amendment and later LB 920, can simply go on and say, yes, I'd like to give full reimbursement, or she can have the choice of saying we're just going to hit those counties that have been impacted by it 1 percent or more, which would mean the day... everybody would have to eat some of the losses, but we'd cover the major losses that would be very, very harmful to certain counties. So I think it's a well thought out amendment. I think it's a good bill, LB 905, if I remember correctly, and I would urge the body to support that. I also would like to throw out another comment that I think most senators here, if there would be something in our county that we, or anywhere in our district, that we went through and we were counting on something budgetary wise, but something happened legally, whether it was in the agriculture industry, whether it was in the business industry, and all of a sudden, through no fault of our own districts, they lost that money, I think any of us would be in here saying that we would like to help out, though. So, there are certain counties that obviously will not be helped by this. But I suspect there will be some other time in the future where they will be asking for