

letter, on May 23rd, or on May 26th, requesting a valid application from all these communities. So the department is saying that once set in motion the process of any grant application and the distribution of funds by state government takes some time. However, in this case, the school district seemed to be claiming that the Department of Environmental Control should have stopped the processing of the city's application, which they did, because of legislation which was enacted after the application was tendered. So they're saying that Johnson is claiming they could do that, which they should by law. They're saying they couldn't do that, but in fact they did. They stopped the application, cause it was improper, cause Auburn requested the full \$100,000 they sent a letter for further clarification. The other communities then applied. They sent another letter of clarification, and took out one community and added one community, and thus then paid, almost two months after the law had changed, they then decided to distribute the funds. They're claiming they couldn't change their mind because the pros...application was received on May 8th. The application received on May 8th was improper, and it was for one city, Auburn. So they did change their mind, and they distributed amongst many cities in Nemaha County. When I asked...when the department argued their case before the Business and Labor Committee, I asked them how they complied with the law, which would be LB 761, which would distribute the funds, 50 percent between the cities within ten kilometers, and 50 percent between the political subdivisions. They couldn't answer that. They said, we complied with the law, the new law by following this May 8th application, the illegally, improperly applied application. And then they distributed the money after the law had changed, and they distributed the money, and they asked for requests for improved applications after the law had changed. Everyone, including the Nemaha County Board, knew the law had changed. I have a news article right here on the county board's meeting on May 23rd, which they stated they would wait to send their letters in, the requested renewed application from the DEC, because they knew 761 had passed, and they knew the Governor was going to sign it. So the Nemaha County Board knew the law was changed by the Legislature and awaiting signature by the Governor. The department, I would imagine, also was aware that the law had changed, and yet they were saying the process had started and they couldn't change it, so they shouldn't comply with this law. But yet, indeed, they changed the process two times after the law passed. The Department of Environmental Control completely dropped the ball here, folks. And my