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business to the larger cities, but the larger cities have enough variety, enough large businesses, so they can implement a sales tax. And, of course, the rural people, when they go to the cities to buy things that are not available in the small towns, pay this city sales tax to help the larger cities reduce their property taxes. So I am very concerned about this bill. Also the state and federal government keeps mandating more programs for these cities and villages. Some of them that come to mind right now is closing the city landfill. Another one is testing the city and village's water supply. Who is going to pay for that? We and the federal government keep mandating these programs but we don't provide the funds, so I think we ought to take that into consideration. So the only way that the cities and villages can implement these mandates is by increasing fees or increasing property taxes, and we certainly don't want that to happen. I'd like to carry this debate a little bit further and ask Senator Bernard-Stevens a question, if he will yield. Senator Bernard-Stevens, you were talking a little bit about regional projects, that if some of these small towns didn't receive enough money to make it worthwhile, well, then you were thinking about proposing or at least discussed a proposal where we could combine these receipts into regional projects, would you like to explain that just a little bit further?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Yes, Senator Hefner, thank you for asking the question. There was apparently, I don't know whether it was planned or by whom, or whether it is just miscommunications that one of the things that I was proposing in the hearing with my questioning is eliminating the monies below 2,000 or some figure because it wasn't enough to do anything. And, actually, it was quite the opposite. One of my concerns was, and I think some of the other members of the committee concerns was that if we are going to do things for infrastructure, there wasn't enough money being put out in some of the rural areas so they could do anything. So one of the things that we spoke to, Lynn Rex during the committee hearing, and to other people, the mayors that came up during the committee hearing, was would they be at least amenable to trying to find some type of number that we might be able to pool together into a...with a block grant program,...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...so to speak, so that small communities, instead of getting 28 cents or \$900, or \$1,000,