

September 30, 1992 LB 11

the agreement we had with the State of Nebraska on this cigarette tax money. As the bill stands and how it came out of the Appropriations is that it will take one-third, it'll take \$1.5 million a year for the duration of the agreement. So what we're saying is that's one-third. No other agency is having to take one-third in any of their capital construction budgets. So we're trying to back that up to 5 percent. I think it's a very fair approach. I know there's some other amendments that are trying to take some different amounts. But all we're trying to do is say, let's take 5 percent, which is 225,000 a year, which amounts to \$4 million over the life of the agreement, a little over \$4 million. And that's about, I think Senator Robinson said, it's a 1.34 percent. So it's almost in line with what all of the other state agencies are having to take. So I think if you look at the amendment it's designed to get this MIREF money that goes to the cities right in line with the other reductions. With that I would certainly like to see the amendment passed, because I think it's a way that we can protect the cities and still keep the state budget half way close. Now, another thing this bill, LB 11, with the MIREF money, was not part of the Governor's proposal. The Governor didn't have this in his proposal originally. It's not part of it. I have no idea whether the Governor is coming down for or opposed to this proposal to use MIREF money, but it wasn't part of his original proposal. So keep that in mind as you're voting on this amendment and this bill. I realize the state is having some hard times that we're going through. The cities are willing to take a cut. They're willing to take their fair share, but they don't think they should have to take more than their fair share, which we are asking them to do under LB 11. We're asking them to take a one-third cut, and that's more than any other agency is asked to take on their capital construction. With that I would move the advancement of the amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Schellpeper. I do have a list of speakers. I do not see Senator Warner here yet. I don't believe he's here yet. Senator Robinson, would you like to speak? Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I am not going to vote for this amendment. I don't think it...it does not make any sense to me at all. I think we either, we either vote for the cut or against the cut, and I think these kinds of amendments at this point are window dressing and just don't, to me just don't make any sense at this late stage in the