

September 30, 1992 LB 11

amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just very briefly, I want to address the concerns that Senator Moore raised, and that is the concern that, indeed, we would have a deficit in some current bonding requirements if we adopted the Lynch proposal. Now, I don't know if the members of the body realize how serious an event that can be. But it can, indeed, hamper your ability to sell bonds in the future if you have a history of not being able to produce the revenue to fund bonds that you've issued in the past. That's simply a risk factor that's taken into account. And bond brokers and investors do look at those kinds of items. I think for once when we're talking about the Lynch amendment, we're finally talking about something that we have legitimately made commitments to, at least third parties to, outside government, that we're going to be making those payments. And those obligations have to be met. I wasn't...I voted for the cut in the municipalities reluctantly. But I think it's something that they can bear. Here I think that we're talking about cutting in an area where we would not be able to meet all of our obligations to people outside of government, and I can't support the Lynch amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Anyone else wishing to address the Lynch amendment? Seeing no one, Senator Lynch, do you wish to close?

SENATOR LYNCH: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman and members. I want to mention a couple of things. One is that when Senator Wesely earlier mentioned how only one cent of all of this cigarette tax goes to health care, he's absolutely right. But to be completely frank, 5 cents goes to health care. Four cents of that five cents goes to the animal sciences, which means we're concerned about the health of animals, but it has to do with health, and it has to do with public health, I guess. So we are spending 5 cents of that. Except, unless you have four legs, or a trunk or something, it really doesn't do you much good. Seriously though, I understand the possible ramifications, since there are set amounts of dollars as identified with MRF as compared to a percentage, or a cent, or a half a cent, or whatever it might be of the cigarette tax for some of the other funds. However, my attempt here was simply to