

September 30, 1992 LB 11

state balance their budget. I realize the cities get a lot of money from the state, they get about \$17 million. We're willing, the cities are willing to take \$500,000 a year out of the MIRF funds. Let me remind you once again that these...this bill, LB 11, was not part of the Governor's proposal. This bill came out of the Appropriations Committee because they are the committee that didn't favor MIRF in the first place, they were not supporters of MIRF when it was passed. But it's an agreement that this state agreed upon, they agreed to give the city so much a year, in fact it was 4.5 million, now we're back...we're willing to back up to 4 million a year to...so that we can still meet the obligations on the bonds, continue to take care of the infrastructure, continue to have our cities move forward. By taking away one-third of their budget, not budget but their MIRF money, you are really penalizing the cities, much more than you are anybody else. And I don't think that that is a fair way to go. When they have these budgets set they are planning on these things that they plan to do with this money. They're going to have to raise property taxes in order to make up this difference. And I don't think that's a fair way to go. I think the best way to go is to set up so they know each year they're going to have so much. We told them they would be getting so much money three years ago. That isn't going to happen now, if LB 11 passes. So we are proposing that we would only take 500,000 a year with this amendment, and that would still leave the cities \$4 million to be distributed statewide on a population basis. Thank you.

SENATOR CONWAY PRESIDING

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Senator Schellpeper. Senator Moore, your light is next.

SENATOR MOORE: Thank you, Senator Conway. I'm almost tempted to take up Senator Schellpeper on his offer, but I won't. And the acute case of schizophrenia that's prevalent here today kind of surprises me. I mean here we made a promise, we can't back down, but we can back down 200,000, Senator Schellpeper, we can back down 1.5 million, now we can back down 500,000. But, you know, you promised this, you can't move it. Come on. I mean you're...Senator Schellpeper is absolutely right with his amendment, as he was with his first amendment, as was Senator Conway, you can do whatever you want to this. You can do whatever you want to this. If you want to keep giving the money, that's fine. If you want to cut it in half, that's fine.