

September 30, 1992 LB 11

is a hard dollar cut. And if we wanted to reverse that, we'd have to get 25 votes, in the future, to go back to the way things were. Nine million dollars is a big ticket item, that is a big contribution by anybody's stretch of the imagination, I think. That's the reduction of future expenditures that is agreed to in the Schellpeper amendment. We are no longer out of posturing, we're not longer out of nickel and diming, we are into big, serious money at \$9 million. So I want, number one, recognition that there's been some genuine ponying up. It's true, that does mean that we have broken the promise of MIRF, not to touch the income stream, and I think that's unfortunate. My ultimate goal was to put money in the hands of cities to do unattractive, long-term infrastructure changes, and that will still be able to be done with this amendment. I don't get the whole loaf, I get a portion of the loaf. As a matter of fact, I don't get 90 percent of the loaf, I get, what now, about an 11 and 1/2 percent cut in the program for 18 straight years. Nobody else really is doing that very much. Many of the cuts we're talking about are delays, deferrals, they're in recognition of the short term. They are talking about bienniums and moving away things for a couple, three years. The Schellpeper amendment is written to have an 18 year impact for a total of \$9 million. That is serious money, that is a serious contribution, and it takes its place along the kind of pain that we have allocated all the rest of the budget, and this is an appropriate line to draw. This one I have no difficulty standing up and saying this is a comparative, this is an appropriate, this is a cut that reaches parity with the kinds of suffering that we are administering throughout other parts of the budget. And, for that reason, I think it's a reasonable line to draw rather than the line drawn by the Appropriations Committee. I urge you to pass this Schellpeper amendment and then advance LB 11.

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Senator Landis. Senator Cudaback, you're next.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, for some reason, back about three years ago this body made this a priority, otherwise they would have done just as Senator Moore said they did with the rest of the groups, they would have made it according to how much...how many dollars were raised, and that's how many dollars you would receive back, not with MIRF. MIRF, it was spelled out, you get your books out and read it. Those dollars were said that they would be there for 20 years.