

cooperation, is that correct?

SENATOR VRTISKA: Not direct appropriation, no.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Okay. Senator Maurstad, I mentioned I'd give you the rest of my time. Would you like the last 30 seconds? I assume you have your light punched. Senator Vrtiska, with that in mind, I will support the bill at this particular point. I do have some questions. I don't know where I'm going to be towards the end of the process, but at least I'll give you my initial support to move it at least one time. Whether the body concurs with that is yet to be seen.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you very much.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator McKenzie.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I too rise in support of LB 144 and wanted to make clear my reasons for supporting this legislation. I think Senator Vrtiska has emphasized several times as he spoke the importance to include small communities, but I want to include in that discussion the idea about inter-county coordination and cooperation that I think LB 144 also allows for. In many cases, especially the south central part of the state, communities have realized that they have to think broader than themselves and have begun to think about county development organizations, working together in situations that often are difficult because for many years they have been people who have competed against each other for business instead of cooperating for business. I think the language in the requirements for multiarea or multicommunity projects that are included in LB 144 make this concept and this approach a little different. I also know from working with some of those groups that their difficulties lie often in not having the same knowledge and human and monetary resources that communities often have, that some grant money as the seed to match and then to approach other businesses or other interested parties for additional contribution in trying to attract new business makes some sense and provides a new impetus for that kind of cooperation. With that I would again say that I support LB 144 and would appreciate advancement to Select File.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator McKenzie. Senator Hillman,