

can't see where there is any negative impacts as a result of it and, therefore, I would ask that there be adoption of this amendment to LB 613 and would be willing to stand to answer any questions that the members might have. I don't see Senator Coordsen here so I'll go ahead and end with that.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Maurstad. Senator McKenzie.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Thank you, Madam President and members of the body, I rise in support of the Maurstad amendment but I want to also add two concerns I have. After studying the issue of unused budget authority in the local school districts after the introduction of the bill I was concerned about the amount of money that we have out there in unused budget authority that schools could access. The projections from the Department of Education this year shows \$68 million in unused budget authority. Now having that concern I visited with Senator Warner and members of his staff about unused budget authority and whether or not there have been abuses of unused budget authority by schools and unfortunately there probably have been a few. But the other thing that I learned about it is that it probably is the only thing that keeps the lid from becoming a floor. Unused budget authority encourages local political subdivisions to spend less when they need to spend less and yet to maintain some credit for that conservative approach to use in a year when they need it when there's an emergency, when there's something else that happens that requires the additional revenue. It appears to me that unused budget authority has both a good faith and a bad faith and if in fact we believe in the competence of our local boards, and remember political subdivisions include SIDs, counties, fire protection districts, airport authorities, weed control authorities, NRDs, hospital districts, health districts, ESUs, regional libraries, road improvement districts, on and on, if we believe that they are capable of making those decisions of spending less than the lid if they can have unused budget authority then I believe that it is a good provision to add. I do have some concerns yet about whether or not we need to make specific recommendations about the use of unused budget authority. I will be visiting with Senator Maurstad between now and Select File and if, in fact, believe that we need to make some additional provisions, will offer that for you on Select. At this time, however, I do support the Maurstad amendment.