

additional resources to them, because of an emergency?

SENATOR VRTISKA: I think that if they, in fact, decided to reduce the amount of money that they required from the taxpayers during their course, which would be a normal process to manage their level of government, that it would be some factor...it would be a factor that the Risk Manager and the Claims Board would certainly take into account before they would want to approve that claim based on those kind of circumstances.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: My last concern, and I really just want to get your opinion or thoughts on this. Some reservation that I have is to what extent the state should expand its role as the guarantor of local government activities and responsibilities.

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: And if you would mind commenting on that, and you can have the balance of my time.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Okay. Let me just...let me just say it in a few short words. First of all, there are 35 states in the United States who, in fact, have a similar type legislation that they do, in fact, step in on these types of situations that are somewhat out of the ordinary. And I guess given that situation, I felt it was only fair that we, in fact, I guess, be one of the followers of that pattern in trying to help those who are desperately...have a desperate situation that is somewhat unusual for the size and ability of a government, whether it be city, county, or village, to be able to carry on their normal business because of these unusual circumstances. So I just feel like that we are just one of a great many states who are...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time.

SENATOR VRTISKA: ...attempting to do the same thing.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator...people are pointing at Senator Bernard-Stevens, but I do not see him. Senator Bernard-Stevens, are you going to use your time?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Senator Vrtiska, I'm a lot more comfortable...I was supportive of the concept you were trying to do in the beginning, but I'm a