

doesn't get its fair share, but you don't hear us coming in and complaining about that, at least not within my memory. And I don't...I think it would be unfair to cut all of this. So I would just ask you to defeat the Avery amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Avery, yours is the only light on, would you like to close?

SENATOR AVERY: Yes, I will. What...I would agree if there was a real difference in equity. The problem is, Lincoln and Omaha have direct access to the federal government, to those federal funds. There's millions of dollars that they get directly from the federal government that the other communities don't get, in proportion to their budgets. So I think this is a point if you're saying that it is equity that is needed, the equity is the fact and the percentage of the budgets that come from Lincoln and Omaha and the access that they have to the federal government. The dollars that are available as federal aid that they can tap, which many other communities don't have that opportunity. So I'm asking that you look at this and it's a small portion. All entities are going to have to, in the state we're going to have to cut spending. And we're asking all entities to do that. Again, this is a small portion. Fourteen percent of Omaha's budget comes from federal aid. And those are a lot of times dollars that can't. Lincoln and Omaha get a greater percentage of the state aid as well, when you go in the formula that we have been working with. So I think this is a true, an inequity. You have to figure in the amount of federal dollars that they get to truly look at the fact of need for equity. And when you factor in those factors of the money, the federal dollars that the two cities get, I'm not sure that it is comparison, you're not looking at the right numbers. With that I ask you to support this small meager savings that we're trying to do in the budget. I don't believe it's not going to be devastating to the entities, which are Lincoln and Omaha, who get a larger portion of the funds anyway in terms of many of the other communities across the state. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: You've heard the closing. The question now is the adoption of AM4050 offered by Senator Avery. All of those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Have you all voted who wish to vote on this measure? Senator Avery, for what purpose do you rise?