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SENATOR BRASHEAR: Generally speaking, what I know, Senator Chambers, is that this is money which is distributed to the cities against which they can bond for various infrastructure projects.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Brashear, this language would say a certain amount of money goes into this fund each fiscal year, namely, \$3 million. Why should the state, in these perilous times for the state, take on or continue this obligation to municipalities? Is...let me...

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Well,...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...let me ask a preliminary question. Your bill, to say the least, is ambitious. Would you agree? By that I meant broad-based, wide-ranging.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Yes, it is.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: We have heard it said when we came down this session that everything is on the table when it comes to the budget. Have you heard words to that effect?

SENATOR BRASHEAR: From some quarters, yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: This is a \$3 million per year amount that goes away from the state to the municipalities, would you agree with that,...

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...to the benefit...now if we're putting things on the table such as aid to public education, where we have an obligation, do you think it's reasonable to put this item on the table and discuss and consider it as seriously as we are discussing and considering other things that may be cut as a result of the present fiscal crisis?

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Yes, I do, Senator Chambers. That's absolutely the way we must proceed. We must deal with the