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us taking more money away from them. Thank you very much.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Redfield. Discussion of AM1661? Senator Schimek, followed by Senator Thompson.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I'm not sure if there are other ways that the city of Lincoln can make itself whole, and I'm presuming that they wouldn't be here asking us for this if there were other ways, but I could be wrong on that. But I guess what I would like to call your attention to is the letter from Ameritas that you all have on your desk, and in that second paragraph it says: "In our opinion, the failure of the Nebraska Legislature to continue such appropriations," meaning MIRF, "would have serious consequences, especially for the state of Nebraska and any entity which may issue obligations payable from appropriations from the state of Nebraska. From time to time, the state has undertaken certain capital projects for which funds were not immediately available. In such cases, the state has authorized the issuance of obligations payable from state appropriations over time. In each instance, the fact that the state has never failed to make the promised appropriations has been critical to the rating and sale of such obligations. Failure to make such appropriations at this time would seriously erode investor confidence in the state and any entity which has or may issue obligations secured by such appropriations. There have been instances in which failure to make appropriations has resulted in lowered ratings on other debt not subject to such appropriations of such an entity." And then it goes on and talks about some other things, but I think that's a concern. Senator Redfield mentioned that maybe we should do zero-based budgeting, and maybe we should. I don't necessarily have a problem with that. But there are a lot of people who are upset with LB 775, but we don't go back and reexamine that and say we're not going to do that anymore. And I think that we've signed some contracts and that we have to continue the contracts that we've already signed. But we should be able to look ahead and make some adjustments if we want to, and we never seem to get in the position where we can do that. I believe that we've made the same kinds of obligations here because of the kinds of marketplace rules which govern bonding. And, you know, I don't