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water systems. That's all going to cost money. And whenever we cut any type of stream of revenue to these smaller towns, it's going to hurt out in the rural areas. So myself, I would hesitate to even support any of it. I guess if I had to support some of it, it would be like being putting up before a firing squad and getting to choose which gun you want shot with. I think Senator Beutler's amendment probably looks the best if we're going to get executed, but at the present time I don't know as I can support any of it. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Louden. Senator Stuhr.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I stand in opposition to Senator Beutler's amendment. I do support Senator Thompson's concept in the fact that I believe that we are experiencing difficult times. These are not times or business as usual. We have to begin to make those cuts. Particularly looking at the out years when we're looking at 2005 till 2007, we're looking at \$800 million of possible deficit. I know we're all thinking and hoping that things do turn around, but I think I've learned when I came to the Legislature that in many instances you can't commit future legislators to what was passed earlier. This was passed in...well, I've heard several things, 1989, 1991. Times were different then. The entire situation of our economy was different at that time. I believe, also Senator Redfield pointed out, many of these things are local control. I do realize that many of our small communities do receive some funding, but I believe that they will have the opportunity to adjust because it is really not that much that they are going to receive. So again, I just feel in all of this discussion that now is the time to do it. Let's quit prolonging the agony. I do think that Lincoln has the opportunity, as Senator Beutler pointed out, in the situation that they are; they too can go back to the local property tax option. And that's what most of us have to do in the rural areas because most of us...I have 22 communities and all of my towns are under 10,000. I have only 3 communities in those 22 that actually have a local option sales tax. But again, I will not be supporting this amendment and I would hope that we could proceed on. Thank you.