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LB 440

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. Senator Wehrbein, followed by Senator Bourne, on the Beutler amendment.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I'm just going to be very brief and say I rise to support again Senator Beutler's amendment. I've heard the discussion and I'm coming down on the fact that we have a commitment through 1-2009. It was legitimate to bond against it, even though the original intent I think with MIRF was not, although there were some that did, but we did reiterate that in the year 2000 here on this floor that they could do that. And even though there's ways around it, I understand it, I've never really believed in tinkering with the bond market rates and that is where we're at with Lincoln. And if we really do want to cut state aid to cities, in two years, at that point, rather than take away MIRF, we can do it with the aid to cities issue, which is once again aid to municipalities on page 38. So it may...it's not a big issue with me. I know it's a big issue with some out there and, therefore, I am going to stay with Senator Beutler's amendment. And I begin...I strongly urge you to do that yourself. Let's keep our commitments. If you want to adjust state aid to municipalities, we can do it another way in the year...in two years out and keep our commitments. I guess that's the issue with me in the long run, that we ought to keep our commitments to the extent we can. We have done that LB 775 and some others and, if I may philosophize just a little bit, that is really the issue in many things we do as we start new programs. If you don't want to stay with it, then we shouldn't start the programs in the first place, whether starting new things that have come through our committee and others. Let's don't make new commitments if we aren't able to follow through. But this was one that was made years and years ago. It's due to sunset 2009. If you want to make other cuts we can do it another way, but let's don't interfere with the bond market in the process. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Bourne, and this will be your third time, Senator.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President, members. Senator Beutler, would you yield to one last question?