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LB 440

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Beutler, for a question.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yes.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you. Now just to clarify, exactly what your amendment does is your amendment says that the MIRF fund go...if your amendment is adopted, the MIRF fund will go away for every city except for Lincoln and, in return, until the year 2005, and then MIRF will be restored or reinstated as it exists now, prior to LB 440. Is that accurate?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Until 2009, which was its original termination date.

SENATOR BOURNE: Okay. Okay, and then...and then also what will happen is that in the mainline budget bill the committee has recognized that they took an additional \$3 million in each year. The aid to municipalities took a 10 percent cut plus an additional \$3 million cut in each year, and so what you're amendment would do, again, is eliminate the MIRF fund, except for the aid to Lincoln, until 2005. Then everything would reinstate until 2009. The committee mainline budget bill would restore the \$3 million to aid to municipalities except for the money that Lincoln receives under MIRF so that Lincoln can satisfy the obligations that they made on those bonds.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, that's precisely it. You got it.

SENATOR BOURNE: Okay. I must be rather slow this morning (laugh) and I apologize, but what you're doing makes sense to me now. And, again, I'm sorry that it took this long to figure this out, but it makes sense. And what we're doing is we're maintaining Lincoln's obligations. We're helping the city of Lincoln to a certain extent, but not at the detriment of any other city. So I believe what I'm going to do at this point is support Senator Beutler's amendment and I'll also support the reinstatement of the additional \$3 million in the mainline budget bill for aid to municipalities and go from there. So, Senator Beutler, I appreciate your patience in making this clear to me, and I intend to support your amendment. Thank you.