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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 440

years. We will be having this same debate in two years. Now if a miracle happens and everything changes and everything comes back, then the cities would line up with everybody else who has been cut out of this budget through the appropriations process because they don't have a bill that mandates that they get their funding. They will be back in line with everything else that's been cut out of the budget and you can make a decision in two years when all the money is back to put this back or anything else that may have had, in their view, harm done by the budget. So I voted against the call of the question because, from the conversations I was getting, I'm not sure that was clear. So the choice at this point is to reverse the opinion of the Appropriations Committee which said sunset it, and put in and only sunset it for two years and put it back in. And so two years from now, MIRF automatically comes back. So I suggest if you want to be sympathetic to Lincoln and their problem, you can solve that on another amendment. It's part of AM1661 but it also can stand alone. I'd defeat AM1661...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR THOMPSON: ...if you agree that instead of sunseting this in '09, we should sunset it for two years and bring it back for those extra years. I support the committee amendment with the Lincoln amendment, which can be offered separately if this amendment fails. And as Senator Beutler rolled this out to you earlier, what we decided in our meeting this morning was we would give you the opportunity to reverse what the Appropriations Committee is recommending and bring this program back in two years for...until it sunsets in '09. And this gets back to kind of what Senator Redfield said. Where do you want to put the burden? Is the burden going to be on the cities to bring the bill back in two years to get this program funded again? Or is the burden going to be on...or are we going to make that commitment right now this year...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR THOMPSON: ...to continue funding it and have to try to repeal it just like you're doing now?