

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

May 1, 2003

LB 440

complicated. I think everyone in the room understands what this does. It restores \$3 million aid to municipalities except Lincoln. And Lincoln has a bonding issue, so MRF is pledged for Lincoln \$520,000, and that's really it. I mean it's not a complicated issue, folks. Senator Thompson also equated state government's obligation and I got the perception that she said county government is, in fact, enabled by its state government. Cities are...spending for cities is a little bit like spending on the United Way. Well, I...and they really are not the core responsibilities of state government. I would submit that core responsibilities of the state of Nebraska are law enforcement protection, police protection. I would submit that core responsibilities of the state of Nebraska are fire protection, sanitation, provision of water, provision of sewers. I would submit those aren't United Way spending causes. Ladies and gentleman of this body, cities are swimming uphill and we've tied their hands in inability to raise property taxes. We've capped their spending, capped their levy limits, and now we are cutting them off at the knees by gutting the aid that this state provides to municipalities. The only recourse that I see now is AM1661. I urge your support. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Mines and Senator Tyson. Senator Brown, on the Beutler amendment. Is Senator Brown in the...yes.

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I just wanted to thank Senator Bourne for his remedial education for the rest of us slow learners, and so this is a very painful admission, but I'm going to follow his lead on this amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Brown. Senator Stuthman.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I'm probably quite a bit slower than Senator Bourne. My head is a lot harder and it doesn't take...it takes a lot to get things soaked in. The thing that really concerns me on this, and we are trying to help with a situation of Lincoln and their bonding. The thing that really I'm aware of...really not aware of is how many of these other cities and municipalities, and a