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Committee in this matter, and that you defeat this amendment. The proposal was made before the Appropriations Committee by Senator Beutler to simply continue the MIRF funds until the year 2009, and that was defeated within the Appropriations Committee. All of this MIRF matter was brought to bear at a time when things were better. We were trying to assist communities in their individual developments. And now the time has come where the state needs this money. And we had reached a compromise within the Appropriations Committee so that there would be a taking of some of the funds from aid to municipalities and replacing the MIRF money. It was kind of convoluted but the idea was to simply take Lincoln, and, Senator Stuthman, I was unaware of any other community, certainly no other community presented anything to us that they had bonded any of their obligation or MIRF monies. Lincoln was the only one that we knew of at that time that had done that. A representative from Omaha was there and they said they had not pledged any of that money. They may have been, as Senator Mines is saying, they may have been relying and hoping for that money to come, but I think Lincoln was the only one that we were aware of that had actually issued bonds based upon that. And so it was in deference to their concerns that we made the modification within the Appropriations Committee to assist them so they did not have a reportable problem to their bonding representative. Once again, I say that MIRF was one of those things, and we have many of them, that we issued at a time when things were better. And things aren't better now and the state needs the money, and I would urge you to support the Appropriations Committee package and to defeat this amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Pederson. Senator Hartnett.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Mr. President, members of the body, Senator Wehrbein, could I...you referred us to the golden colored book here.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR HARTNETT: And it says, as I read the statement: The committee budget includes a 10 percent base reduction and an