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LB 440

that there is no advantage to Lincoln, or disadvantage for that matter. So it's not really a Lincoln question. Here's the question, and it's really quite simple. Do you want to end the MIRF fund in 2005? If you do, you should vote no on this amendment and stick with Senator Thompson's bill. Or do you want to try to follow through with the original commitment on MIRF, which was that it should exist to 2009? So this amendment, instead of ending it in 2005, as the bill would otherwise do, would continue it to 2009. That doesn't mean that two years from now we might not be back wanting to cut this fund as well as others. Maybe; maybe not. I see the balancing arguments. I come down on the side of the amendment, and it's basically for this reason--I don't want to go back to higher property taxes. I don't want to do that, and I want to fight it in every way possible. And I want to be optimistic about it and I want to say to the League of Municipalities, you know, we're doing you damage here, I know that, I understand that, but at least we will put this law in the form that the money will be restored in 2005. And if we can't do it then, we can't do it. But we're going to try to do it because we do believe in you and we do believe in lower property taxes. And I might say, coincidentally, that the League of Municipalities is one of those groups that appeared before the committees of the Legislature and said, you know, this isn't popular, but I know there...we know there needs to be some balance here; we're supporting the Legislature in having some revenue increases. Can you count on one hand the groups that were willing to do that, and are going to be out there backing you up when you do raise some taxes? Because you know you're going to raise some, it's just a question of which ones and how much. That's a little beside the point. But property taxes is very much the point, and I hope we will keep an optimistic view to what I think is one of the major things we've tried to do in this Legislature, and that is keep property taxes down. And you promote that point of view if you vote yes on this amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. You've heard the closing on AM1661, which is an amendment to the committee amendments, AM1414, to LB 440. Question before the body is, shall that amendment be adopted? All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Voting on adoption of AM1661, offered by Senator Beutler