

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

May 7, 2003

LB 540

The argument is maybe that was brought on by yourselves, but I don't think so. I don't think so. I think they should...the funds are there. They should be able to use them. Now, when you've got a levy as low as some of the counties, that shows you what they're trying to do. They're trying to do the best job they can. Senator Cudaback alluded to that. Senator Cudaback is an old...he's an old county board member. I don't know if he was ever on the city council in Riverdale or not. But Senator Cudaback understands what's happening there too. And with that, I believe these are two good amendments, very good amendments, that I think will allow these governmental agencies to expend some of those dollars; that the people have voted and elected them to those positions. If they get hog-wild with those budgets, they're going to be facing an election too. just like the rest of us. So I believe it is up to those local counties and cities to use the authority that they have, and utilizing the dollars that are there. It's as simple as that. And I hope that you all will support Senator Mines' amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Janssen. Senator Tyson.

SENATOR TYSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Call the question, please.

SPEAKER BROMM: Do I see five hands? I do. The question then is, shall debate cease? All in favor of ceasing debate vote aye, and opposed nay. Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 29 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, to cease debate.

SPEAKER BROMM: Debate does cease. Senator Mines, you're recognized to close on your amendment.

SENATOR MINES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Revenue Committee, I believe, when they heard arguments earlier this year, made the right decision. Given the circumstances of a 10 percent cut, it made sense. Again, without belaboring the point, local governments are facing much larger cuts than anticipated. And those communities and counties that are able to capture growth in revenue without increasing property tax can then spend up to one more percent than they can today by a supermajority vote of