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prudent for the state to do. And we can do this while honoring not only the Municipal Equalization Fund formula that is in place, but also the promises that have been made to cities regarding the distribution of the overage. So at any rate, I hope that explains to you what this is about. I would suggest to you that for whatever reason you might suggest...and there are a number of them...that this is a prudent thing to do, and something we ought to do. This will add to our bottom line for the current biennium, or for the upcoming budget biennium, rather, roughly...again, this is an estimate, but roughly \$5 million. Our bottom line right now is very, very thin. It's positive, but it's very, very thin. I think this is something that is prudent, and something that I hope you will agree with me that we should do. So with that, I urge your support for the motion to return to Select File.

**SPEAKER BROMM:** Thank you, Senator Raikes. Senator Landis, on the Raikes motion.

**SENATOR LANDIS:** I rise to support the Raikes amendment. I was pleased to cosign it. Several years ago, we realized that we had money going to cities and counties that was going out on an unequalized basis, that ignored the differences between political subdivisions that had a lot of resources and political subdivisions that had little resources. No difference between whether or not people were using those resources and taxing themselves highly, or whether they were letting those resources lie fallow. And so, using the idea of equalization from school funds, we did craft a couple of formulas in the city area and in the county area. Now, they're not as graphic, they're not as well-thought-out, they're not as clear in their policy as the school equalization mechanism, but the goal was the same. A couple of dedicated revenue sources here that are being applied to cities. And the part that makes me a supporter and a cosigner of the amendment is that all of the obligations and expectations...not just the obligations, but the expectations that the state has given rise to would be honored by the operation of the amendment. So I support Senator Raikes in this endeavor. Thank you.

**SPEAKER BROMM:** Thank you, Senator Landis. Senator Beutler.