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LB 622

in it, but as a group do better now than counties and schools. Up until this morning, the cities were going to get whacked big time. And the counties still get whacked big time, and the schools get whacked big time, but the cities no longer do. Unfortunately, they're trapped in this differential between sales tax cities and not sales tax cities. This seems to me unlike the aid cuts that we put in the budget, where we said, you know what, we've been giving you this amount of money all up until now, now we're going to drop it by 30 percent. That's what we did in the budget. That was tough. Cities got whacked and counties got whacked. This is different money. This is money we didn't promise them. We said we're going to get a formula and you're going to get everything in the formula. And then last...a while ago we said, and we think we're going to get more money so in fact I think you're going to get another million bucks, and we're going to give them that million bucks too. This money is not projected. It's not in a budget. It's not the subject of going out and getting a warrant to repay the money in some place else. It's not in the planning of the cities because it hasn't been promised and it hasn't been expected. If there's a place to shift to a state responsibility, it would be here. If there was a place to help the cities out, it would be in the mainline budget on the aid package there, which is a genuine, tough, painful cut of expected money that they have historically gotten. But this pot of money isn't that. This is the kind of stuff that should go to the General Fund. I support Senator Raikes' amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Landis. On with discussion. Senator Bromm, on AM1956 to LB 622.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Mr. President. I think that we have an opportunity here that we should not pass up. We're not taking money away from the cities that would breach any promise, commitment, representation, expectation whatsoever. Now, over the noon and as Senator Raikes' amendment was understood, the cities saw an opportunity, and I don't blame them at all for wanting to try to capture this money to increase what had been promised to them, which would all be well and fine. And I have lots of sympathy for the cities and have supported many, many things that they've done over the years, but I appreciate the