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LB 622

SENATOR MINES: Thank you, Mr. President, colleagues. We did make a decision as a body on the Raikes amendment and it wasn't...everybody wasn't on board, and I don't believe it was the right decision. I don't know how to again...I guess I know how to restate it again, and I will. The cities have been hit in the gut more than once. And this is simply the last time that they can take that hit. As we've already talked about, over and over, they've taken unprecedented cuts. Now, I agree that counties have taken cuts too. If that were on the floor, I'd argue in favor of that one. When you talk about local government and shifting...I've heard on this floor all session that it's been our charge for quite some time to lessen the burden on taxpayers as far as their property taxes are concerned. I can tell you what we're doing with the LB 622. We're sending that right...those taxes right back to the local government, local cities, local counties. And property taxes are going to increase, specifically in those 400 cities that only represent 12 percent of the population. And Senator Landis indicated that it's going to be hard on them. And I wonder how many of those 400 cities are in each and every one of your districts. I know I've got three of them that don't have sales tax. And I can promise they're going to...they're up against the levy. I'm not sure what they're going to do. The total amount of the funds to each of these cities may not be tremendous. But I can tell you that even enough money to purchase a lawn mower in some of these cities is a big deal. Many of these little villages just don't have the funds, nor do they have the ability to capture more funds. And any amount of help we can give them is greatly appreciated. Please remember that even the larger cities that do have the ability to recapture are still under that 2.5 percent spending lid. So any amount of revenue up and over that doesn't get spent. It gets sent back and applied to property tax. And frankly, we're not seeing...as a whole, our sales are flat. Sales are not increasing. And I'm certain and am convinced that in this next biennium cities and counties are going to be back because they can't make it. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Mines. Senator Raikes, on the motion to return for specific amendment, LB 622.