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LR 11

SENATOR CHAMBERS: When you say community improvement, what do you mean by that?

SENATOR BRASHEAR: The things that have come to my mind, specifically, you...I'm talking about what benefits...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Did you say specifically me?

SENATOR BRASHEAR: No, it's what benefits a community where it sits. In a town of a thousand that might be a fire hall. In a town of 500 it might be the opportunity to build a small manufacturing plant and employ 15 people. I deliberately tried to make it very broad and specifically used economic development because of my understanding that we need that particularly, that mechanism particularly, in our rural communities.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But it does not have to...well, it could be 2 percent economic development and 98 percent community improvement based...

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Yes, it could.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...on the language here. Isn't that true?

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Yes, it could. I...and I say that clearly has to come from the Legislature.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Now that...

SENATOR BRASHEAR: In other words, this is constitutional, enabling language, designed to be specific enough to provide comfort to those who require some rigidity and yet to allow the Legislature and the people, through the other governing processes, their opportunity to input if the people approve it at a referendum.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Your position right now, if I understand what you have said and not said, is that the existence of this fund is more important to you than the rest of your amendment.