

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

February 3, 2004 LB 32

funded. I think this federal mandate that we have that was in the 1997 Clean Water Act, I realistically think there should have been some funds come with that if we have to do this mandate with the Clean Water Act. I do not think that we or the cities should have to be forced to do something and charge every taxpayer a portion of it. A lot of times in cities' directions and missions, they want to invite businesses to come to the city, businesses to come to the area. That means more people are going to come to the area. That means there's going to be more concrete poured, there's going to be more impervious surfaces, which is going to create a problem with the runoff. But I think realistically, the counties or the cities, mainly the cities, should have local control. If they want to invite these businesses to add to their valuation of their metropolis or cities or villages, they should be the ones that have to take it under consideration as how are they going to handle that. I continually will strive to avoid putting anything more tacked on to the property tax. It's getting to be a penalty to earn...to own property. And this is a thing that really concerns me. If a city, Omaha or Lincoln, want to continually invite people to come to the city to build houses, to build schools, to pour a lot more concrete, then I think that should be under their jurisdiction, under their direction how are they going to fund it. But I don't think we as a state Legislature should force it upon or tell them, you can add it on to your property tax. I think...you know, property tax, I think property tax is high enough already. I think enough is enough. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM PRESIDING

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Stuthman. Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. Speaker, members of the body. Senator Stuthman, let me give you a little dose of reality here. We have, our cities have the potential, each one of them has the potential to be fined \$27,500 daily by the EPA, and \$10,000 daily by the Department of Environmental Quality. This is a federal mandate with no federal funds. And other states have been warned, they've been sued, and they are dealing with it. And if they don't the consequences are real, and the financial consequences are large. There is nobody in this body that hates