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FLOOR DEBATE

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would be reinstated in this budget. This year the Governor's budget restored \$2,480,000 to MIRF in honor of that obligation. However, the budget also was cut...the budget on aid to municipalities was cut an equal amount, \$2,480,000. Remember, the \$520,000 accommodation for Lincoln is removed from that. Municipalities have not been made whole as promised or as intended when this program was to be reinstated, and that's why I introduced AM1438. The Appropriations Committee concurs with this manipulation of funding, and I do have to agree with the process. The intent has not been followed. Cities are the economic engines that we want to stimulate. They provide local refunds and incentives to eligible businesses, and I believe it's fair that we honor our commitment to fully fund their state aid. As I stated originally, I believe a deal is a deal. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Mines. You've heard the opening on the Mines amendment, AM1438, to the Appropriations Committee amendment, AM0521. Open for discussion, Senator Thompson. Senator Thompson waives her opportunity. Senator Bourne.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you Mr. President, members. I was in a heated discussion with the Speaker and I heard Senator Mines making fun of my comments on the floor last year. (Laugh) You know, it's funny when you read those transcripts. You think, do I really sound like that, but I guess you do. Listen, I rise in support of Senator Mines' amendment, and I will tell you why. If you look through the transcripts, as Senator Mines obviously has, as have I, and that...the agreement was that that was for two years. And then it went back today, in 2005, and then as I understand it, and Senator Mines probably has his light on, will correct me if I'm wrong, but then in 2009 the entire program sunsets. If you read through...and I didn't realize I was coming up this soon, and I'll speak again on this measure, but even Senator Thompson acknowledged in the debate that if you go along with the amendment that Senator Beutler was carrying at the time, you are saying that these funds go away for two years and then come back in 2005 and then carry through till 2009. And that is exactly what the vote...that's exactly what happened when we took a vote. Now, I will give you also that previous