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LB 425

saw a lot of jobs lost in this state. So in fact, I believe that we have provided the means through LB 759 for the municipalities with a local option sales tax to actually increase their revenue to the tune of about \$12 million a year, which is far in excess of the \$3 million cut that Senator Mines is talking about. And therefore, I will stand with the committee. And Senator Pederson, if you would like the remainder of my time, you are welcome to it.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Pederson, about four minutes.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: I think that you have adequately explained the total fiscal picture. And I think that it appears to me to be overly opportunistic to attempt to come back now and get additional funds, claiming that the cities were misled. If they were misled, they misled themselves. And they have been told time and again that there was not this confusion that Senator Mines referred to in his opening. So I think we have to look realistically. I was just talking to Senator Stuhr. She said, by the way, how much did the counties get this year? And I think it turned out to be like a goose egg. But the cities seem to want more money all the time, and I think that in this particular case it's not warranted by what took place, and they have been so advised many, many times. But in addition to that, it's not borne out by the dollars. They have not really lost dollars. They've gained dollars. So I think that we need to remain fiscally responsible. I don't know how we ever got into the situation of aiding cities in the first place, but we did. And so I think that the facts speak for themselves and I ask you to study that aid to the cities and MIRF funding that I distributed to you, and you will see that they have not lost money. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Pederson and Senator Redfield. Senator Janssen, followed by Senator Mines and seven others.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature. This is kind of the same story only a different tune. The only thing is that the...instead of the schools, it's the cities, and the cities do have the option of recouping some