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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 425

SENATOR CUDABACK: Members, all unexcused members please report to the Chamber and unauthorized personnel please leave the floor. Senator Jensen, Senator Heidemann, Senator Landis, Senator Kopplin, Senator Chambers, Senator Beutler, Senator Wehrbein, Senator Brashear, please report to the Chamber. The house is under call. Senators, please report to the Chamber. Senator Mines, now you may continue if you wish to.

SENATOR MINES: Thank you, Mr. President. I apologize for my insubordination. Members, as we've discussed, a great discussion, and frankly, you know, I think you could argue this on either side. But this amendment is the right side. As you've heard time and again, we did have an agreement and on this floor we amended LB 440 two years ago that the reduction...actually the elimination of MIRF funding in the amount of \$3 million, but for \$520,000 that was kept for Lincoln, was withdrawn for two years, temporary. And at the end of the two years when we came out of our economic funk, that that money would be restored. And all AM1438 is asking is to honor that commitment. And you can look at the projections and those, I believe, that show in 2002 that municipalities received state aid of \$16 million, 2003-04 was \$14 million, and then it dropped off to \$11 million. That's the \$3 million that we're short. That's the \$3 million in funding to a combination of MIRF and state aid, and we are \$3 million short and we're not honoring our commitments. This is about Omaha, in my mind. This isn't about Lincoln, in my mind. This is about the 530 other municipalities that do or don't have the ability to recapture the reduction in revenue that they've seen over this last three years. We're in this together and I would urge your support on passage of AM1438. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Mines. You've heard the closing on AM1438. All members are present or accounted for. The question before the body is, shall that amendment be adopted? All in favor vote aye; those opposed vote nay. Senator...

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: I'd like to request a roll vote in reverse order.