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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 425

was coming back, respond. With that, I'd be happy to answer any questions. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bourne. You've heard the opening on AM1570 to LB 425. Open for discussion. Senator Mines, followed by Senator Beutler and others.

SENATOR MINES: Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues, obviously I stand in support of AM1570 by Senator Bourne, although it's not, as my amendment was, to restore MIRF, and we're looking at a \$3 million number, lessened by a \$520,000 Lincoln exemption. Senator Bourne is exactly right. Municipalities throughout the state had planned on MIRF money being restored in this budget year and obviously have budgeted for those numbers. And through the process, there was great debate on the floor, and I contended at the time that a deal was a deal, and many stood up, particularly, Senator Pederson, and said, you know what, we honored our obligation, we fully funded MIRF to the...to LB 440, but to accomplish that, General Funds were reduced by an equal amount. So in fact the cities were not made whole. MIRF was restored, but state aid to cities was in fact reduced. I think Senator Bourne's approach is a nice midpoint where we can all come together and say, you know what, cities, we're going to make you whole for one year. After that the deal is off. It is no deal. But those of you that have made commitments for the funding, those of you that are...have obligated yourselves to improve your infrastructure, we're going to make sure that that happens in this fiscal year, and after that we'll take it out and we'll do something else, perhaps. But I stand in support of the amendment and I, frankly, don't see any philosophical difference between Senator Bourne's amendment and Senator Stuthman's amendment to make counties whole for another purpose. The commitments were made, commitments should be honored, and we're going to honor...we would honor that MIRF commitment with AM1570. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Mines. On with discussion of the Bourne amendment, AM1570. Senator Beutler, followed by Senator Don Pederson.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature,