

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

May 25, 2005

LB 40

Smith had pending, Mr. President, FA303. But I have a note that Senator Smith wishes to withdraw FA303.

SENATOR CUDABACK: FA303 is withdrawn.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment I have, Senators Redfield and Flood, AM1730. (Legislative Journal pages 1757-1758.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Redfield, you're recognized to open on AM1730 to LB 40.

SENATOR REDFIELD: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. The amendment that is before you is cosponsored by Senator Bourne, Senator Flood, and myself. It goes back to Senator Bourne's original idea, based on the congressional districts. What it would do is guarantee that 25 percent of the funding would go back to each of those congressional districts, leaving the remainder in a pot that would be available for distribution to the Native Americans, and then to fund other projects as special needs arose. So I believe it provides the guarantees to every district in the state. It also provides flexibility so that larger projects would have some other available funding. I want to thank everyone for working on this. I want to apologize that everyone was not on the same page yesterday. I believe our goals all along were always the same. And I believe that we have achieved that with the amendment that is before you. So I would ask for your adoption of this amendment. It says that it would allocate a specific amount of funds, not less than 25 percent, to each congressional district. Entitlement area funds allocated under this section that are not awarded to an eligible project from within the entitlement area within one year shall be made available for distribution to eligible projects elsewhere in the state. That's because there may not be applicants. Perhaps Omaha or Lincoln or somewhere else may not have enough projects to use up the funds. And it would distribute them. The goal is not to sit them...put them in the pot of any one area of the state. We want to make sure that we're putting roofs over people's heads. The goal of the bill is to provide housing, not only for those of low income, but also under the portion of the Behavioral