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FLOOR DEBATE

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won't go any further, but the committee amendment redirects the funds to the Highway Allocation Fund. With that, I would, I guess, defer to Senator Landis to open on the committee amendments. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Baker. There are committee amendments, as stated. Senator Landis, you're recognized to open on the committee amendments to LB 904.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature. The committee amendments change the destination for the sales tax that's collected on motor vehicles that are in excess of 5 percent, from the Highway Trust Fund, which is what it was in the green copy, to the Highway Allocation Fund. And that means, essentially, that we are taking this amount of money, roughly \$15 million, and pressing it through that part of our formula that sends money out to cities and counties. In the Highway Allocation Fund, the money would be distributed equally between cities and counties, distributed according to the current formulas for both. This was a mid path, if you will, between two different claims: One, simply stick the money back into our existing formula, and secondly, change the formula to reflect the growing urban needs that exist in relatively complex highway and road needs that we have. The body, as you know, didn't want to change formulas. They appeared over in Senator Baker's committee; they appeared over in the Revenue Committee. And the reason that changing formulas was bad, because it takes money from one person and gives it to another. It creates winners, but it also creates losers. By using the existing formula, we are taking that mechanism that we've used historically to divide among cities and counties, and by front loading this money only in that portion of our relatively complex maze of highway funds, we essentially make winners of all cities and all counties. Who's not a winner? The state of Nebraska. Our money will be, as it is now, but it will not see a growth, according to this amount of money. I would ask for the adoption of AM2876? AM2576? Well, I'm just as blind as a bat. Well, whatever that committee amendment is, that's the one I want.

SENATOR CUDABACK: AM2576.