

weatherization money out of its own pocket. For us to give the NIFA authority to issue bonds to allow local government weatherization in many respects is to carry coals to New Castle. Most local governments do have bond issuing authority today. They could issue bonds as they, themselves, wanted to. Those bonds would be tax exempt bonds because they are issued by local government. I just don't see any need, at this juncture, for the bill. On the other hand, I think if the bill is raised to the floor, we'll spend a lot of time talking about the propriety of state involvement, so to speak, with what truly is a local issue, and local governments ought to be able to take care of this problem themselves.

PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator. Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: If the Chair feels there has been enough debate, I would call the question.

PRESIDENT: I'll hold off for a moment. There are no other lights on at the present time, though. Senator Wesely, do you want to close?

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Notwithstanding Senator Johnson and Senator DeCamp's comments, I'd like to reiterate what this does. All it provides for is that cities and counties that wish to weatherize their public buildings would be allowed to go to NIFA and request a bond issuance at a lower interest rate to assist them in funding the project. The money comes from the cities and the counties. It is at their initiative, it just provides them a funding option which would lower their cost. I don't see a big controversy with it. I don't see a big problem with it. I don't see any concern about where the money is coming from because it is clear where the money is coming from. All this is is a financing mechanism not now available to cities and counties to lower the interest rate that they have to pay to get the financing to weatherize their buildings. I see no problem with it. I don't understand what the concern is from a couple of people here. The bill, again, is supported by the League, the Nebraska Association of County Officials, the Energy Office, the Lincoln Electric System, and I would ask your support for bringing the bill to the floor.

PRESIDENT: I'll accept that as your closing, Senator Wesely. The motion is to raise LB 792 to General File