

because I think this is good that we do this and I would yield the rest of my time to Senator Smith.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Senator Lynch, especially after I was sitting back here talking when you were on the floor speaking and I apologize to you for that. I just simply rise to say that, as a member of the committee, I was one of the folks that would have voted to have put this out of committee and, in fact, supported the amendments on it. We heard the testimony from a lot of good folks out there who are very concerned about their land and having the say-so about their land. And I think that's what it comes down to, it comes down to the bottom line of, is this my land or is this not my land? And we can talk about landmarks and all those kinds of things that all of us have a right to enjoy those kinds of things and I think, yes, we all do that. But I think these people are just talking about the fact that they have land which happens to adjoin or fall on this river and they want to be able to say, we believe that it's more beautiful than any of you people may think it could be who might want to come and see this. And trust us, trust us, because they have shown that they're good stewards in all these years. One of the questions that I remember of asking someone who was on the opposing side to this bill when they wanted to be able...they said they didn't...they felt that they needed to do this for the sake of the future, for the protection of the area. And I said, well, don't you think it's been protected to this point? And they said, yes, it had been. And I said, well, you know, if the history hasn't shown that people have misused their own land, why do we need to say that we worry about the future that the sons and the sons that come after them are not going to? I don't think there was really any answer to that. I think that this is not something that's going to usurp anything that's going on at the federal level at this point in time and even if it does in some way tie in with it, I'm not sure I think it's so bad that maybe this could be sending a little signal. Let us have some input when you make a decision about something that impacts on us directly, especially those people that were there testifying that day who are the owners of that land. And I'm going to support this and I hope you will consider, very carefully, doing the same thing. Thank you.

SENATOR CONWAY PRESIDING