

right-of-way, or former railroad right-of-way, because some of the people that are in agriculture, and farm on both sides of that, would like to see that added to their farm so that they could farm right across there. It's certainly an inconvenience to have to go around and farm on both sides of a railroad track. But to get back to the real issue here, and that is whether or not we should spend \$100,000 on this trails bill, I think it's not appropriate for this tight budget year. I would ask that you adopt this motion, which would merely strike the funding out of the bill.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Lamb. I will now recognize senators wishing to speak to the Lamb amendment. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr...or Madam President, members. I'll speak to Lamb's amendment. I'm going to strongly oppose the whole bill, but I'll speak specifically to Lamb's amendment. And I do support Senator Lamb's amendment at this time, and that is on the basis of providing \$100,000 a year for the next 10 years does not seem to make sense to me at this particular point in our budget life. We are not in the position to be starting new programs. I won't argue perhaps some of the merit of this issue. I heard...listened to Senator Ashford and his approach to this, that this may be a way to heal rural, urban, or greater Nebraska, whatever term he used, I'm not sure in this case if this is necessarily a hearing process, perhaps it is a divisive issue, and I'll speak to that more later on the bill. But I just want to call our attention to the fact that I don't think it's appropriate to be starting or expanding our budget this time to the tune of \$100,000 a year for something like this. If this is a need for someone to have trails, so be it, let there be some other way. In fact, I notice then that there is eminent domain in this bill, or it refers to it. I know there's already eminent domain availability right now, but I am not also all that keen on this, particularly this long strip that this would, in this case, allow. I looked up, within 50 miles, or 60 miles, probably, of Lincoln right now there are 22,565 acres that can be used for similar purposes. It's accessible by the public. That does not count water. There's another 5,189 acres available to the City of Lincoln, NRDs, and other areas around this particular area that can be used for this. My question really is, why do we need more ground for this kind of activity? Why do we need to allocate \$100,000 a year for this type of purpose when we already have over 27,000,