

at all. But with regard to economic value, down in Missouri they just created a trail, and I noted that 6,640 people used it in its first month. So a lot of people use these trails, and there is an economic effect. Up in Wisconsin, along the Sugar River Trail, Wisconsin has been doing studies about the money coming into local areas relating to these trails. Their study of the Sugar River Trail indicated that nearly half a million dollars came into the community in one year because of people who are coming in to use the trails. They also note that tourists are often pulled in off the highways, and from other states, to use interesting trails. Outside the state money has been running around 35 percent on those trails that have been studied for where the money...where the tourist money comes from. So I think that rural communities, to the extent that they become a part of these trail systems, can expect to benefit economically. Now it's not great to lose your railroad line, and I'm sure that trails can never make up the economic loss that comes from the loss of a railroad line,...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...but I think we should start taking a positive approach about what we can do with this land. And I suggest that the revenues brought in by a trail will far outweigh any revenues that would come into the community by virtue of putting that small bit of additional land under production. So, overall, the economic effect is going to be very positive for the rural communities. I suppose, if anything, being from the city I should be against it for economic reasons, in the sense that city people are going to go out there and...Lincoln people are going to go out and spend their money in the countryside. But I hope you will keep in mind the economic effects as you consider the bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, I really don't know, Senator Beutler, whether they're going to spend their money out there, they'll probably fill up with gas before they load up their bike and chug out there, and they'll take their lunch along, because there's not going to be any quick stops out there, that sort of thing. I doubt that there will be much money spent. I hope there is no money spent for hard surfacing the trails. And I would guess that would probably come along, because I see some of those hard-surfaced trails that have