

Colorado, a few years back, and they have basically spent the money to put bicycle and hiking trails down off the highways in the mountains. They made a massive commitment to it, and there are people on these all the time. And our whole family went out there and we had a great time biking and hiking around. - Now if we have a special session, or if Congress should force certain huge wage cuts on me in the near future, I won't be able to hike down to the store, let alone go to Colorado to take my recreation. So we are going to need things like this close at hand for our people, and I think it is a very viable industry, possibly small, but we have got to take a little bit at a time in southeast Nebraska and look at this as a tourist attraction opportunity and a recreational opportunity for our own people. And I would have a question for Senator Beutler. A question for Senator Beutler.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Beutler, would you respond, please?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yes, sir.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: I noticed in one of your handouts that you talked about rail banking, but I don't see rail banking in the bill, and I was not around all this morning. Is rail banking included in any way in this bill?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, that is an interesting question. I suppose that if you were willing to allow property to be used in a very rustic kind of sense for hiking, you could, basically, take a strip or corridor of land, allow it to be used in a very rough kind of way for very little maintenance, and by that means preserve it for future railroad use, which would be rail banking. Yes, it would be allowed.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you. The National Rail Banking Program preserves these corridors and the way it works, I believe, is the railroads sell the line to whoever, the abandoned line, and they make improvements, if they wish, and use it for public purposes and then, if, indeed, the economy or a new source of income on that rail line appears, the railroads can go back and pay back the people that bought the line, their improvements and everything, and thus start up a transportation corridor again on that same section.

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.