

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated earlier, I have...I really have no objection to the Lamb amendment. There is an A bill that goes along with this, and so, one place or another, you need to have the appropriation language, and we happen to have it in both places because we were uncertain as to whether an A bill would be required. But there is an A bill and so there is not much point to discussing Senator Lamb's amendment at length. I'd be glad to agree to it.

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

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I agree with much of what has been said. We need to get started on this. The funding is something that also caused me concern. I think we need to give the state the ability to look at this and look at options of funding. We've already missed out on some very prime corridors, one of them in my district, what used to be the track that I covered from Tecumseh to Auburn, an excellent strip. There is another one potentially, and I hope it never happens but potentially from Nebraska City south. That section has been identified as one of the most prime spots in the nation for a situation like this. I think we need to get...at least get the language in there where we have this ability. We can look at funding sources and alternative funding in the future, but we must have the ability to take a look at these stretches and say, yes, this is, indeed, a spot that would be very worthwhile. So I am in the same place, I guess, Senator Moore was. I think this is a...I can support the bill either way, and I would hope you would follow your conscience. This can be a very good situation for the state and for the local people. When I sat through the hearing, and Senator Wehrbein made a comment earlier, and Senator Moore referred to it also, Senator Wehrbein said he didn't think this was appropriate for prime farm ground. Well, others don't think that the low-level facility is appropriate for prime farm ground, yet we are going to do it. We are going to slap it right down in there, right in the midst of some of the most beautiful country you have ever seen in your life. So I think this would be a little less low impact than that possibly. So I would urge you to follow your conscience on the funding, but at least support the bill and move it along so we don't miss out on prime opportunities in the very near future. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Morrissey. Senator Warner.