

converted me, is to open the expanse of the bill, and on page 2, the amendment would, beginning on line 3, strike, and this goes through line 5, strike "the abandonment of railroad rights-of-way in this state providing a unique opportunity to develop" and then on line 11, would strike "abandoned railroad rights-of-way" and insert "recreational trails." So Section 2 would then read, "The Legislature finds that a statewide system of recreational trails by which citizens of Nebraska may enjoy the greenways or linear parks that will result and that such trails may act to preserve wildlife habitat and create conservation corridors. The Legislature further finds that it is in the public's interest to develop recreational trails and to do so through fostering public and private cooperation." I read my National Geographic and I am aware of the Appalachian Trail, the trails that exist in the mountains, the trails that exist in the Ozarks, and the trails that exist other places, and I am also aware that there are a number of people in the nation, and certainly in the State of Nebraska, that do enjoy that sort of activity. I don't think that we should restrict, which would seem to be indicated by the current language of LB 714, the development of trails to railroad rights-of-way. This does not... the amendment, by the way, does not prohibit the use of railroad rights-of-way, but, rather, opens up or encourages the acquisition of other lands to be used for the development of trails. With that simple explanation, I would urge the adoption of this amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. Senator Morrissey, on the Coordsen amendment.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. I agree with Senator Coordsen in the aspect that we should open it up in one way or another to all areas, that we shouldn't restrict it to railroads. I am not comfortable with his language in that I would be considering looking at a rail banking type of language, possibly on Select File, and by striking the railroad language, we couldn't do that. We could add "or any other appropriate trails" or some similar language of that sort, so I would oppose Senator Coordsen's amendment at this time but support his idea.

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

SENATOR MOORE: Well, if Senator Coordsen would yield to a question.