

that is considered, of course, by the Appropriations Committee but not separately considered on the floor of the Legislature, in most cases. So that's my concern. My concern is that this...this is a short-term solution to the problem, which in the long-term will result in General Fund money going directly to that Trail Fund. That's my problem with this bill as it would be amended by Senator Warner's amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Lamb. Senator Beutler, on the Warner amendment.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, it's difficult to say that I support the Warner amendment, because in concept I don't, as a political reality I do. I understand that many of you have some feelings about the use of General Funds and the extent of the use of General Funds. I hope that I have made clear to you that this doesn't really represent any additional spending of General Funds for recreational purposes, since the Cigarette Tax Fund is declining rapidly. In any event, I appreciate Senator Warner's efforts to compromise the matter. And even though 50 percent of the funds is being cut out, and even though this fund will be useless for the MoPac trail, I do wish to preserve the concept. I think it's an important concept, if we're going to be a forward looking state in terms of providing recreational opportunities for our citizens, and, therefore, I will vote for the Warner amendment.

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

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. As I understand the discussion that's taken place so far on the Warner amendment, it would take the funding out for the first year, but then it would be up to the Appropriations Committee as to whether that remained in future years on a continuing basis. I think perhaps at this time we should consider that the trail that seems to be discussed is not the only abandoned railroad property in the State of Nebraska, or the only property that has the potential for abandonment, and certainly would create an interest in developing trails in the future. To adopt the Warner amendment would then put us in the position that we're in today in providing a private organization, private citizens with incentive money out of state tax revenues, to allow them to have an advantageous position over adjoining property owners in the acquiring of future right-of-way. I don't think it's a good