

idea for the state to get involved in this type of an issue. I'm not opposed to the acquiring of recreational lands for the use of the general public. I think I've indicated that, in the last five years, we have acquired nearly 12,000 acres at a cost of a number of millions of dollars, and that's fine. But to get involved in this type of an issue, at this time, with the ongoing consequences that this bill, with the accompanying A bill, would present to us is not the wisest course that we could take.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. Anyone else wishing to discuss the Warner amendment? Seeing no one, Senator Warner, do you wish to close?

SENATOR WARNER: Yes, Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I've indicated what the amendment does a number of times. And I think that at least it's an improvement of some of the concerns that many of us have. I do want to make one other comment, however, on the use of General Funds generally for recreational purposes. Aside from the trail, Senator Beutler has already indicated that the 1 percent cigarette tax, of course, has been a declining source of revenue, which is true, and will continue to decline. But, historically, we have not provided the kind of funding, from the General Fund, for general recreational purposes that are usually sought. We very heavily rely upon user fees for much of...of one kind or another, for the development of recreational facilities throughout the state. And there is a very legitimate argument that some General Fund is appropriate for these activities, because they do benefit everyone, and there are those who can participate in some of these activities that user fees, for the amount of time they may use them at least, could be...tend to become prohibitive, although some user fee certainly is acceptable to me. But the overall picture, I can think back over the years that I was on the Appropriations Committee we had a tendency not to provide a lot of General Fund support; we heavily relied on user fees as much as we possibly could. And while I appreciate there's always competition for those General Fund monies, there is nevertheless a very appropriate rationale that some General Fund money, recognizing that recreation is a broad benefit to the public at large, that some General Fund money is not inappropriate, and it certainly is an area that we have not funded in the past with General Fund money to the extent...certainly never to the extent of requested, and I'm not talking total dollars, but I'm talking about the ratio of