

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Beutler would move to amend the bill. (Beutler amendment appears on page 1865 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, this amendment, which has been passed out to you, would basically allow, but not force...would allow Game and Parks to use \$50,000 a year for two years out of their Habitat Funds to support projects that may have a trail component. It is not an appropriation that takes money away from any other habitat appropriation. Traditionally, the habitat appropriation is about \$2.4 million. It is never used in full. In addition, the fund balance, in the Habitat Fund, is about \$2.5 million. So this is not taking money from one habitat use to another, but simply allowing the use of Habitat Funds if Game and Parks should choose to...to contribute to a project of this type. Now, one other important thing, can this be used to purchase, as part of the purchase price of a trail project? The answer is, no, it cannot. It can only be used for development and maintenance, and I put those words specifically into the amendment so that we're not backtracking on what Senator Wehrbein is trying to do in protecting the landowners in Cass County. This money cannot be used for that purpose. But if this trail, or a trail in Senator Hillman's area, or a trail in any other area is, in fact, purchased, then to the extent that there is a habitat value to that trail, then \$50,000 a year could be used for that purpose. And I passed out to you again some very interesting testimony, narrow in focus but so well done, I just thought you might be interested in it again. A testimony by Mr. Carl Wolf, who is interested in pheasants. And he talks to some length...at some length about the value of these railroad corridors for habitat for the pheasant, and how important they can be for the hunters of the state, and for that whole activity. And, if you're interested in the value of habitat, this little paper is just an excellent little paper on how it all works. But these recreational corridors do have enormous habitat value, and that is recognized by this proposed amendment. Hope you can see fit to adopt it.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Before I go to the next speakers, I would like to introduce some guests to the Legislature. We have guests of Senator Rod Johnson and Senator