

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I'm sorry, I guess I should...this one is on page 2. It simply strikes any direct appropriation by the Legislature. I expressed a lot of interest in this early on. We did take some of the funding out, but we ended up putting a second hundred thousand in. I guess I still have some doubts about the wisdom of providing General Fund money for trails such as this, especially on the...automatically assuming abandoned railroad right-of-ways. I realize that the way the bill is now it wouldn't necessarily be railroad right-of-ways. I have no problem with the trails and I have stated that earlier on, that trails are appropriate. I just have reservations about using General Fund money for this type of endeavor and, obviously, where they tend to run along areas like the railroads or other areas where I think they're inappropriate, you put the effect of taxpayer money behind these, it makes them much more competitive and that is exactly what happened in the situation in my area which is already behind us. The money was raised, as you can see by the paper today. They've obtained a loan and they are going to proceed full steam ahead. But it strikes me, without knowing the full knowledge of it, but it strikes me that they were able to outbid the surrounding landowners to some extent because they have some assurance of public support and I don't know in the long run perhaps some money from General Fund sources. I'm not sure that they can use money in the future from General Fund, which we are appropriating into the future into this trail to repay the loan. And if Senator Beutler has knowledge of that, I would be interested in that, but I would not be surprised if that they could. So it's my feeling that it's improper to subsidize this type of activity with taxpayer money, especially when they're bidding against, directly, landowners, if not now, potentially they could in the future. So not only does that make something that I kind of...I disagree with anyway in the first place, it also makes it unfair in the second place in my opinion and that's the reason I filed this amendment. Simply says that the fund, if the amendment was to be adopted, it would state the fund shall consist of funds received as gifts, bequests or other contributions. This amendment strikes the appropriation by the Legislature.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Madam President, members of the Legislature, this is the "great white shark" of amendments. I mean, this eats it all up; kills the bill. To remind you of what has gone before, we have had so much going on I'm not sure that you would