

straight today, restore it from 50,000 to 100,000 a year as was intended in the original program. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Wehrbein, on the Beutler amendment.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Senator Crosby. I will oppose Senator Beutler on this. We did discuss this in detail, the committee did, and this was...ended up being our recommendation of 50,000 and 50,000 each year. This is an aid program to help political subdivisions and nonprofit organizations acquire and develop recreational trails. Project funding is limited to 50 percent of the projects total cost. One thing that the committee felt is that there is lots of money, relatively speaking, of ISTEA money available from the federal government that can be used for this. They will fund as much as 80 percent of project costs. And so we felt that with the availability of federal money in this particular area, appears to be a popular area, that this would be a place that we felt the committee appropriations of the 50,000 each year would be an adequate amount to proceed with these trails as rapidly as they could be, considering the availability of federal money, which is in this case ISTEA, which is federal highway administration money. Senator Kristensen may have something more or less to add to that, if he cares to, but that was the thinking of the committee.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Wickersham, on the Beutler amendment.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Madam President. And I...I guess I was...the only reason I've turned on my light, Senator Beutler, is I was a little bit perplexed because I have had an interest in trails development, not quite the same interest you've exhibited, but I have had an interest in it. And I'm certainly aware that there are additional funds available for that purpose, as Senator Wehrbein noted. And, in fact, within the next fiscal year I'm advised that there will be slightly over \$6.6 million devoted in ISTEA money to trails development in the State of Nebraska. The \$100,000 that you're asking for, as opposed to the \$50,000 in the committee budget, I'm just not certain, Senator Beutler. That's a 50 percent match, the federal ISTEA monies are an 80 percent match. Why would a community seek a 50 percent match as opposed to an 80 percent match? And I know that when you started up the program in 1991, ISTEA monies were not available, they didn't become available