

increase is for, and if I'm wrong in my assumption that this increase represents Game and Parks going back on their word to me, then I'll pull the amendment. If not, I would hope that we could adopt this amendment and reduce the budget by \$120,000 over the next two years. I didn't open...I didn't introduce this amendment to open up the...reopen the trails debate of a couple years ago because, as I indicated to you before, I only...I opposed it at that particular time simply because I felt like that if the Game and Parks could not take care of the land and the property that they presently own that they shouldn't be taking on more, and if they did, in fact, take on more, it would obviously add to the cost of their operation. I would just like some answers on this proposed increase and I would like to hold the agency to their word or that they...when they explained to me what it was going to cost. And, with that, I would ask for your support of my amendment in reducing the state's budget by \$120,000 over the next two years. Thank you.

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

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Madam Speaker and members, I do rise to oppose this and I understand Senator Vrtiska's concern about this and it is tempting to take an additional cut. But we allocated \$75,000 a year. It may or may not be enough at this point. Maybe they could do it for less. Some will say that they need it for more. The only thing that I could go back to, there was an addi...actually when it first came up, in 1993, there actually was a request for even more money than this. So it could be argued either way as to what is necessary to do. We took the position that we ought to give a modest amount so that it could be at least kept secure, kept somewhat maintained and not put the situation so that we have something that the state would be at risk at for safety or concerns or have a mess out there literally, unmowed. So the committee ended up putting a fairly modest amount in there to do that. I guess it could be your opinion, can you adequately mow or maintain that for 10 or 15 thousand dollars? If you feel that that is possible, then I guess that's one way to look at it. We tried to have enough in there that we could at least treat it responsibly, and that's it in a nutshell. Don't really have a lot to say about it. But it is quite a ways down from the request that was requested from us at 150,000. I would sense that cutting it clear to 10 or 15 thousand it probably could not be adequately maintained.