

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Madam Speaker and members, I simply want to make a few comments on...the trailer bill is not absolutely necessary for Nebraska's budget and I assume that you do understand that. These are some things that the committee thought are worthy of your consideration, but it certainly isn't going to make our budget rise and fall, I mean it isn't going to be something that will damage the ongoing operations of the State of Nebraska. There are some initiatives in there, some new spending thrusts by the Governor. There are some, the ones we talked about on the library acquisitions. There are some money for soil and water. One of the questions has been on the 309 Task Force Deferred Maintenance. The question has been asked what is in the mainline? There is five and a half million each year or \$11 million in deferred maintenance under the 309 in the mainline budget. So this is an additional amount of money for deferred maintenance in the 309. I'm going to vote for this this first time. I think it's something that you ought to understand as a body that these are some areas we put out for potential spending if you want to do that. I'm not necessarily myself locked into this at Final Reading time, frankly. but it is something that many in the body want in different forms. Would the committee put it out, generally with that understanding, perhaps not all, but generally that understanding that these are some spending things that we would recommend to fall in line with other A bills. And if you kill it now, which is fine, if that's your intention, that's fine, but if you kill it now none of these will be out there at the end to go to stand in line with the other bills that maybe some of you want and some of you don't. That will be your decision but this is there for an option and that is the basis that I will vote to advance this so it can stand in line with other A bills and you will have those options when we get there. Should 309 be further funded or should we do away with something else that right now is in the form of A bills. Those decisions will be yours to make and that's the reason we bring this so-called trailer bill along. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Madam President and members, I stand again to remind you that I think it's important for us to consider what Senator Wehrbein has just said, that we keep in line this kind of a trailer bill and keep it alive at least on General File. I'm not sure if I'm going to support it all the way through to Final Reading, but in the process of deliberations of our