

SENATOR DIERKS: The...Senator Jensen actually got to the thrust of what I wanted to talk about but one of the...one of the things that grabbed my attention in this list of duties of this coordinator was when you say back there on page 2, (i), monitoring and filing paperwork on rail abandonments when necessary, consistent with rail watch corridors established by the Nebraska Comprehensive Trails Plan or its updates, and then, (j), managing other right of way acquisition efforts when state involvement becomes necessary. Would that be taking some of the efforts away from the Governor's Policy Research Office? Is that...isn't that what Martha Gadberry was doing for all those years? Can you talk about that a little bit?

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Sure. This particular aspect, Senator, transfers no authority away from Policy Research onto Game and Parks. A couple of things. First of all, the other part of LB 584, which is not before you now, discusses that whole process of whereby abandoned rail lines are required. And, as you know, right now under current law, and it would be the same with this amendment, Game and Parks can't accept those without approval of the Legislature. So that's...there's nothing that's authorized to happen here in addition to current...what current law would allow. So all this is doing is whatever is being purchased through federal funds, the Cowboy Trail, whatever work Game and Parks sees fit to do in conjunction with some of the local communities who are becoming very interested in this, this person is going to be coordinating all of that and trying to make it work and trying to develop these tourism corridors which I think are going to be very beneficial to some of the local areas trying to develop...keep...keep onto the plan as much as that's reasonable so that...so that the development is not hodgepodge and miscellaneous but it really conforms to the pattern of whatever the local community wanted as its trails pattern out there, trails plan.

SENATOR DIERKS: Okay,...

SENATOR BEUTLER: Does that answer your question?

SENATOR DIERKS: Yeah, that's fine. I...the other question I had was concerning user fees and I think Senator Jensen touched on that with how these would be collected. Would local citizens