

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Hudkins, please raise your point of order.

SENATOR HUDKINS: I would like to raise a constitutional issue in that in the constitution, Article III, Section 14, it says, "No bill shall contain more than one subject...." I fail to see where hunting issues, safety issues and then limited landowner issues are the same as a trails coordinator.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Hudkins. I'm going to treat your point of order as a motion to overrule the Chair based on the constitutional provision that Section...the constitution prohibits more than one section (sic) or more than one subject in the bill. You have spoken to that challenge. Senator Wesely, do you wish to speak? Senator Wesely, I'm treating the challenge as a motion to overrule the Chair.

SENATOR WESELY: Okay, then I'd rise to oppose that motion. I...we had a discussion this morning about the rules and made some changes to allow committees flexibility and I thought that was a good rule change. I think we ought to stick by that decision. There are different pieces of legislation that are brought together here, but at the same time I think it does meet the constitutional test. We've had any number of bills pass through here that have had disparate intent but in the end dealt with, let's say, health care issues, dealt with human service issues, dealt with natural resource issues, and I think a broad interpretation is applicable here that this is a bill dealing with natural resources and that can include anything from hunting to streams. Now that's a pretty broad range of issues, but the whole intent is that they're focused in on at least some nexus of a common ground. What you don't want is something like the Congress does where they have a black lung disease bill and they put in a salary increase for members of Congress. Now that's a...that is not a germane point in any situation. Our rules do not allow for that. Our committee structure does not allow for that. So I think, obviously, it's anybody's call as to what's appropriate and what isn't. In my view, this bill is appropriate and others similar to it from other committees are appropriate. You cross a line when you get out of the field and you start doing some things that are way, way off to the side and then you get into trouble. This is not of that type. I don't think we venture that far afield and I would say that the