

beginning. There's some things about the bill, of course, that I think are all right, some of the hunter safety things. But we've combined so many things into it that I have some difficulty with this whole process. The cost of putting in a fence, Senator Beutler, is...a mile of fence would cost a farmer/rancher somewhere between 2,500 and \$3,500, so I think that would have some effect as to how...how much the farmers would want that part of the responsibility. It's true that the railroads take very poor care of their fences. We've had these accidents as long as I can remember on the Cowboy line, cattle would get out on the track and be demolished. But I think if we're going to talk about fairness, and we haven't really done that much as far as the trails legislation is concerned, that we need to consider the aspect of the cost to the individual farmer and rancher in keeping those fences up. I have a great deal of letters and phone calls in opposition to this legislation this year. I had some of them last year. There is a lot of hard feelings in my district, and a lot in Senator Jones's district that we're hearing about on the aspect of these people not getting this land back that they thought were supposed to get back when the railroad folded. I understand that was the result of the trail or the rail banking law. But it doesn't excuse the fact that these people think they've been abused. It is difficult for me to support any of these issues that would provide impetus to make things more difficult for those ranchers and farmers that are having difficulties enough as it is. So I'm not going to...I'm going to support Senator Coordsen's motion or amendment, but I'm not going to support this bill. I think that Senator Coordsen's amendment makes sense and we should try to provide that support for these people. But the bill is not going to get my support. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. Senator Beutler indicated that he felt that the fencing laws in Nebraska are too complicated. Well, what we have are two sets of laws and they're not at all complicated; one is railroad fence law and the other is common fence law. Railroad fence law is a legal situation in which the railroad has to construct, and it's a higher standard of construction, fences on the boundaries of the right-of-way. And they also have to maintain those fences in perpetuity. And they also have to grant access across those tracks for landowners whose farm,