

all about. I hope you can bring it back and give it another vote on Final Reading. I think it really deserves your consideration and your positive vote. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Hilgert.

SENATOR HILGERT: Yes, Mr. Speaker, fellow members, this weekend I had a conversation with my brother, who lives in the state of Washington, and I mentioned the rails to trails issue. And he relayed to me that the state of Washington had participated in this and had gone this route, and he talked about on how exciting it has been for the state of Washington, after the implementation of the program and the number of economic development instances that has happened. There's been bed and breakfasts springing up across the state. The urban people love it, they love to go out and take advantage of these things. And, as Senator Beutler outlined, this bill has no negative fiscal impact. I do want to share with you the fact that in the state of Washington this is so popular that the state of Washington was willing to impose an increase on their sales tax, if you can believe that. After the laughter died down, my brother thought I was being condescending to him or something, I just said, no, Phil, except that we're just having a problem passing the bill, let alone having a sales tax increase to foot it. But I just wanted to let you know about the state of Washington's commitment, the impact, the positive impact it's had on the state of Washington, and the fact that in the state of Washington they're actually willing to increase sales tax levies, which was amazing to me. This bill, of course, is no negative fiscal impact, revenue neutral, and I would encourage the reconsideration. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Beutler, yours is the only light on, would you like to close on your motion, or would you like to speak again?

SENATOR BEUTLER: No, I'll close on the motion, Senator Withem. I just appreciate the little time that it's taken. I appreciate the opportunity to have it reconsidered. I think I've talked about what's in the bill, there's no point to reiterating that. I do want to point out what is suggested by Senator Hilgert's remarks, and that is the economic development opportunities that are represented by tourism and specifically the tourism related to hikes, and trails, and hiking is growing exponentially. I