TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

May 4, 2005

LB 424

have. Well, that made no sense to me at all because we live in this country, and this is where we have shed our blood to try to make things better for everybody else but it hasn't worked that way for us. So the comparisons with what happen someplace else may be edifying and enlightening, but they're certainly not binding. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Further discussion on the motion to reconsider, Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I appreciate what's going on here. I'm not quite sure that I want to get the Game and Parks mixed up with the Commission on the Status of Women. I have been a supporter of Environmental Trust. That issue was on the ballot, and whether we would have a lottery or not and where the funds were going to go were dedicated to the Environmental Trust. The Environmental Trust has supported a lot of good projects out there, and they've supported some projects, I would acknowledge, that some people wonder, well, is this at a proper place for it or not. But they're projects that, if you took those issues to the Appropriations Committee, even though the Appropriations Committee might think they're important, probably have more pressing needs, and so it's nice to have an organization out there that is spending some money on the environment, spending some money on habitat. I do believe that farmers, ranchers, the hunter, the fisherman, the people who want to use trails, the people who camp, anybody involved in recreation, I think they've all benefited from the Environmental Trust. And I do think species that might be endangered have benefited from some of the projects they've done. So it's nice when agriculture can work in hand with the environment and things can be done in a productive, positive manner. So I would ask you again not to support this reconsideration motion. I would ask you to trust in what the Appropriations Committee has done and what the Environmental Trust has done, and support the projects that the Environmental Trust has looked at. They get far more requests for money than they can ever appropriate, and so they have to weigh what they think is the best use of their funds. don't know the exact number but I think they have three or four times more requests for money than they can appropriate.