

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

May 4, 2005

LB 424

there's a lot of needs out there, and most of them are good projects. And they have to sort this out. And I'm not sure we have the ability or the time to sort through them and spend the time to it that the Environmental Trust board has. Our state agencies are represented on there, and certainly the Game and Parks Commission...the Department of Game and Parks is a good place because they have the manpower and the ability to help implement a lot of these projects. So I'm very supportive of what the Game and Parks does. Most of you know that the Game and Parks facilities cumulatively are the number one tourist attraction in the state of Nebraska. They're a very valuable resource. And we're not a very good state when it comes to tourism, but if we can support the Game and Parks, if we can support these environmental projects, these projects that help our habitat, why, it's beneficial. So I would ask that you reject this motion to reconsider, that you would keep supporting what the Environmental Trust does, and I would thank you for your time.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. Further discussion, Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members of the body. I guess I would just like to stand a little bit and echo what Senator Schrock had to say, and I would also say that the Environmental Trust, I think it's a fund that does some great job...a great job, and I know a lot of money went to NRDs for different projects. And I know sometimes they do use the money in areas that I would not use it for, but the Game and Parks are in a position to be able to utilize those funds and to do some things that need to be done for our environment. People get off on different tangents here all the time, so I'm going to do that a little bit, too. I just read here where the Texas farmers and ranchers sustained an estimated \$52 million annually to damage from the wild pig population. Maybe the Environmental Trust could put some money in to control the wild hogs that we discussed here a little bit. It says there's 2 million animals in Texas. So I just thought we'd let you know that we tried to get ahead of the game, and the damage that they do to our environment, maybe we could get the Environmental Trust Funds to help a little bit in that area. And the Game and Parks are