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

March 27, 2006 LR 259

we're looking to protect the Environmental Trust, but there's no language in here that protects the educational component of it. So I'm going to be voting no on this, and I would urge you to do so as well. I think we're lacking, or we're going to take away some of the flexibility that, frankly, got us through some of the budget times, and I do think that we need to have a balance. If we're going to tap the education part, we should tap the other. If we protect one, we should protect the other. Thank you.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Senator Bourne. Senator Chambers. Senator Chambers? Is he...I...Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'm not opposed to the Environmental Trust Fund. I'm not opposed to the work that is being done. But in the same way that when we're dealing with statutes, I will offer amendment, two, three, or however many, to try to put that statute into the language I think it ought to be in, if it's going to wind up in the statute books, even if I disagree with it, Senator McDonald has brought an amendment that I will support, even though there is nothing in the constitution that guarantees the existence of this Compulsive Gamblers Assistance That can be abolished by the Legislature. None of these entities is created in the constitution. And the reason I read that Section 1 of Article II of the constitution is to show that most people might think it's automatic that a state would have a legislature, a judiciary, and an executive branch. constitution creates them, and it tells where the power is to be located, and it tells what powers each of those branches is to exercise, and it mentions that the only way one can exercise the powers of either of the other two is if the constitution explicitly allows it. So the constitution is not a statute. is an edifice which should be built brick by brick, with mortar between the layers of bricks, or the rows of bricks. To merely refer to something in the constitution does not, in and of itself, create that thing and give it constitutional status. means that if there is an Environmental Trust Fund, this is the way things are going to be handled with reference to that fund. But the constitution itself does not create it. So if there's an attempt to protect the constitution... I meant, put the