

since 1982. So I think you'll find that, that those increases pretty much parallel the increase in the rate of inflation over that time period. And to start cutting back below the rate of inflation is affectively reducing the purchasing power and affectively reducing the users' share that we've traditionally called upon them to pay, a very small share, but at least the users are paying something. And I think that, what they're being asked to pay in this instance is, is very reasonable. Thank you.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Witek on the Chambers amendment.

SENATOR WITEK: Senator Hall and members of the body, at Oakview Mall in my district we have the Dollar Store, and now I think here in the Legislature we have the dollar man. It seems like Senator Chambers is stuck on reducing these fees for a dollar. I also rise in opposition to the Chambers amendment. If you want to watch clouds scudder, I think that was the word, by, you can go lay down in your back yard and you can do that for free or whatever you want to call it. But if you want to go to Mahoney, which I'm familiar with, and you want to play miniature golf, or ride horses, or go fishing, or go on the trails there, or do any of the other recreational things that they have to do there, it's going to cost you. And like Senator Beutler just said, this is a bargain at, at this price. I was shocked when I first moved to Nebraska and found out what your park fees were here. In Michigan, the park fees are much, much higher and the parks, don't let anybody from Michigan hear this, are not nearly as nice. You have beautiful, clean parks here that you can be very proud of. But I have to tell you that there is a danger with not maintaining these or not asking enough money to maintain these parks at this level. It's all expenses. The people who are in there working have to receive decent wages and benefits. The, the parks are beautiful. We should just go ahead, raise the fees when we need to. Senator Baack said that it's been 10 or 12 years since these fees were raised. Ten or \$15, raising this to \$15. Fifteen dollars a family of four could easily go spend on one meal at, at Burger King. And like Senator Beutler said, you can use the park permit over and over and over again throughout the entire year. And I really, I think if you look around at the other state parks in other states you'll find that these fees are very reasonable and there's no reason not to raise them other than the fact that we might have to go through hours and hour of asking for a quarter