

and so I don't think you can...I don't fault anyone for trying to do it. I think we need to do it. The battle needs to be continued, but...

SPEAKER NICHOL: Time is up.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...I don't want the penalty to be too great. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Warner, then Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, Senator Schmit has touched on a concern I have and it is not because it happens to be particular funds included in this bill. Maybe Senator Johnson, Rod, maybe you...maybe I should ask you or Senator Vickers, I was trying to recall if we have similar sanctions of withholding state funds. It seems to me I can recall provisions once in a while on valuations where we attempted to do that. I do not recall it was ever enacted. And let me say that it bothers me as a matter of policy, I know how annoyed I get with federal sanctions, or how we all get annoyed, and I have some reservations about the policy of withholding funds, depending on action by a local government where in this case it is not usually a factual matter, I mean, as Senator Schmit has pointed out, there is going to be one musk thistle someplace in every county no matter what, or at least the probability. I have got some concern about the administrative costs, but, basically, when this concept...are there other sanctions we do, or is it a judgment factor and we withhold funds? Senator Vickers, do you know, or Rod, either one?

SENATOR VICKERS: Senator Warner, I don't know of any other specific instance where we withhold funds for noncompliance of a law. I can't answer that. I don't know of any. And you are correct, the federal government does it to us. And you are also correct if you assume that that is where the idea came from.

SENATOR WARNER: Well, Mr. President, I have got an amendment on the desk to strike that section because I have got a lot of reservations about that kind of approach as a policy. I assume...let me ask again, Senator Vickers, if that section is stricken, does that make your whole amendment inoperable as a practical matter, in your opinion?