

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: In some places, Senator Schmit, equal or even greater.

SENATOR SCHMIT: And who determines whether it should be greater?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: The Army Corp of Engineers.

SENATOR SCHMIT: If we pass this bill, who determines if it will be greater?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Well, it will be the same, Senator Schmit. It just allows us to comply with whatever they are going to require us to do.

SENATOR SCHMIT: You say we need the bill.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Yes, Senator Schmit, we do need the bill. There is a lot of roads out there that are going to be delayed greatly or may not even be built if we don't have this authority.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Schmit. Mr. Clerk, do you have an amendment on the desk?

CLERK: Madam President, Senator Lamb would move to amend the bill.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature. Doug, I agree that some version of this bill needs to be passed. However, I have a real problem and I will read the language which my amendment would delete from the bill. And it starts on line 19, on page 4. It says, "The area of the replacement lands may exceed the wetlands area affected, and the lands may be acquired to establish a large or composite wetlands area, sometimes called a wetlands bank, to mitigate future impact on wetlands brought about by highway construction, reconstruction, or maintenance." Well, my problem with this sentence is that it is so open-ended. There are no limits on it as I see it, because it says the area may exceed the wetlands