

area affected, and we can acquire a wetlands or develop a wetlands area which is large, but it doesn't say how large, and there is no limit to it. Somehow, Senator Kristensen, I think the bill needs to be tightened up in that area because this is so open-ended. There is nothing, as I read it, to prevent the Department of Roads from just buying unlimited numbers of acres of land and developing it as wetlands with the contention that someday it may be needed because the Roads Department is going to destroy some other wetlands. We need some kind of a limit. That is the reason that I am introducing this amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Lamb. Senator Dierks, followed by Senator Nelson.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Madam President, and members of the body. I'd like to ask Senator Kristensen a question.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Yes, Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: The bill, as I see it, would just simply replace acre for acre the amount of land taken out of the wetlands, is that right?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Well, it allows the Department of Roads the ability to comp'y with that, if, for example, the Army Corp said you needed to have an acre and a half replaced for the acre that you took, this just gives the state the authority to go ahead and put that...and acquire land to put that wetlands in another area. Now it may be across the road, it may be up the road, it may be a couple of miles from there, if they are small pieces. You know, that wetlands can be a tenth of an acre here and a tenth of an acre there. The Army Corp will determine how much of the wetlands you have to replace or mitigate.

SENATOR DIERKS: Well, I guess my question really is, what about the quality of the wetlands or what it is going to replace? There is nothing in the bill that says, now, we are going to put in what we have taken away from the snail garter, for instance, or from the bald eagle, do we replace the same type of...?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: That is up to the Army Corp of Engineers because they tell you what type and quality of wetlands you have to replace or mitigate with.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you.