

composite wetlands area, sometimes called a wetlands bank, to mitigate future impact on wetlands brought about by highway construction. Well, my concern was that it was wide open, that there were no limitations on the amount of land or the location of land that could be acquired by the department...the Highway Department in that situation. That while they probably would not purchase an excessive amount of land to eventually convert into wetland, that certainly was a possibility. And I could see the situation where they would purchase a ranch in Cherry County which had a lot of low lying area, which would be easy to convert to a wetland, and then that would be the bank from which all the wetlands in the state could be...the wetlands could come from that bank to replace any that the Roads Department might destroy in building the roads. So, that was the reason I had an objection to the bill on consent calendar. And now the amendment that Senator Wickersham and Senator Kristensen have agreed to, I think that this at least is somewhat...this concern is diminished, and I would ask that the amendment be adopted.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Lamb. To speak to this amendment, Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: I have a question. Maybe Senator Kristensen can answer this. Do you have any idea, Senator Kristensen, how many dollars this will cost the Highway Trust Fund in a years time?

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: So I understand your question, the amendment to acquire wetland banks or if we don't have the ability to get a wetland bank what it would cost us for increased construction?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Either one, I guess both.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: I don't have a dollar on what will happen if we...in terms of dollar amounts because it depends on which project gets slowed up, but I mean it would be a substantial amount if you slow up those projects, waiting, it's like any other delay and the inflation factor and the lost contracts. Senator, I don't have a dollar figure on that. The other dollar figure just depends on how much property gets, if you have to condemn for wetlands, whatever the fair market value of that land condemned would be and that just depends on which area of