

this amendment I guess and knowing that it's a mere...

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...indication of interest, it might keep someone else from wanting to get their dipper in the bucket in some other manner, although as I know it's reserve funds. Would that be right?

SPEAKER BARRETT: I'm sorry, time has expired. Can you answer that one very quickly, Senator Warner?

SENATOR WARNER: I've got my light on, I can wait.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Yes, you do. Perhaps you can answer it on your own time. Thank you. Senator Elmer, please, followed by Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've had a pretty good discussion of our problem with trying to do something substantive with our water problem and being able to do something in the state in the future is a problem that we do need to address. Senator Schmit has brought this to us to bring our attention to the fact that in order to have matching federal money we have to have ready state money in order to match that and proceed with good water preservation, water quality, water quantity type projects that might come along in the future. And I hope that we will be able to do something substantive to back up this intent either as an amendment to a bill or, down the road, with a substantive bill that stands on its own that would allow this type of a commitment that we could then fund independently when the project was approved and got going and I'd ask your support for this amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, Sir. Senator Rod Johnson, followed by Senators Warner and Schmit.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President, members, as I understand Senator Warner's comments, he indicated that authorizing legislation needs to be enacted at some point before funds can actually be expended and I would agree with his analysis of that case. However, the amendment that is being offered here today I think would, if adopted, if Senator Schmit decides to proceed with the amendment and it is adopted by the body, I think it would bring the body on record that we are going to in the