

to return the bill? Seeing none, Senator Scofield, would you like to close?

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Yes, Mr. President. Thank you. I must respectfully disagree with Senator Schmit, ladies and gentlemen, and this doesn't have anything to do with wrangling money out of the state. Far from it. This has to do with protecting the General Fund and also, I might add, protecting innocent, I believe innocent, Mr. Wigley from maybe drawing conclusions that aren't warranted. I don't...the last time I looked, he's never sat in the Appropriations Committee, and the last time I looked...I'm not sure that he understands the whole process here and this bill, by both Senator Schmit's admission and Mr. Wigley's, says it has ambiguous language which is cited in both of their letters, and I could foresee a circumstance where Conservation and Survey, unwittingly, finds themselves eating expenses through actions that are our responsibility, not theirs, and I would suggest that Mr. Wigley should not be put in a kind of position where he has to come in and ask for a deficit at some point because there were costs incurred that were unforeseen. I see no need to put the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources in this position. We do, from time to time, argue against A bills in this body because we are afraid that will jeopardize our bill. I don't see that as a problem with this instance and, frankly, I'm a little confused at Senator Schmit's objections because all this does, simply, is I think covers IANR in the instance that they find themselves incurring costs that come about as a result of what both of them say is ambiguous language. I think the Weihing amendment that Senator Schmit referenced to, if I'm...there may be one section that Senator Weihing referenced that I believe he called an E & R amendment and so I think maybe that's where...where...I think that's one of the pieces that he's talking about. And as I look at this language that's attached that Senator Schmit has passed out here, it seems to me that it might be unreasonable to ask Conservation and Survey to perform these functions without charge. This is a way that should become necessary for them to be reimbursed that they don't have to come back in and ask for a deficit and put themselves in an embarrassing situation. It allows them to use Cash Funds, which isn't General Fund money, obviously, and so I think this is a prudent amendment. I...it's certainly not my intent to harm this bill, as you can well appreciate, Senator Schmit, but I think an A bill is appropriate and I think this takes care of any potential problems that might be down the road. So I would respectfully ask you to return the