

SENATOR HORGAN: Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: We will go to Senator Morrissey.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members, Senator Schmit, if you would yield.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: I guess I'm coming from the same place Senator Horgan was. I voted for the Prairie Bend bill because I remember discussion that said that the \$200,000 cost of that could be avoided by letting the Water Management Board do the project then. And that's...I guess that's one of the reasons I voted for Prairie Bend other than some of the positives that could come of it. So you...you feel elimination of this then we'll thus have to go back to either finding someone else to do the Prairie Bend if it should ever come about with existing funds, or you still would look at the 200,000 in the Prairie Bend project.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Senator Morrissey, if you read the bill, and I just now did, myself, again, the bill calls not just for the Water Management Board to participate in the study, it calls for the Central Platte, it calls for the Bureau of Reclamation, Environmental Protection Agency, Official Wildlife Service and I believe that Mr. Williamson testified against the appropriation on the premise that the commission had sufficient funds to do the study without...without the appropriation. So what we could do if the body would be good enough to advance 697 on some day, we could address that issue by striking the Water Management Board and adding the words "the commission" in there and they could do the same thing because they have the same people.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Well, and I'm just...I guess I just...the more I read about Prairie Bend I see some of the positives, the very good positives about it and I think it may be well worth the money. I just remembered that discussion in committee that we could maybe get it done for...on the cheap, so...and I'm still rather uncomfortable with eliminating the Water Management Board so I just may defer from voting this time. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Morrissey. Go to Senator Nelson.