

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...dilemma here as we fund both of these...either of these sources, which one that might be most appropriate. Could that be a consideration in the future if this was established?

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Yes, sir. It...it is possible.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: It would...it would be covering the same terrain, figuratively speaking.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Yeah, I...you know, the...the idea behind the bill originally, as I remember it...we were working on it was, we give an awful lot of lip service to addressing water quality needs in our state, but we've done nothing to actually fund those except where we've been mandated by the federal government to do so. And I think the feeling was, well, here's an opportunity to at least create an account, so to speak, so that if money from the federal or this Legislature appropriated money, we'd have a fund there that would address some of those water quality concerns that...

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: ...as the problem continues to grow.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Morrissey.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Madam Chair, members. I rise to support the bill. If you listened to Senator Johnson's opening, you might have thought he was speaking a little tongue in cheek. He said, when we decide that clean water is a priority in this state, and if you sit back and think about that, you would say to yourself, well that's a little silly to say that, because it is a priority in this state. But if you look at the amount of money that we've spent or have not spent on clean water and protecting our water in this state in the past, what Senator Johnson said is true. We might think it's a priority in our mind, but we have not prioritized it in our budgets...in our budget considerations and in our spending of money in the past, or even in the future. Now Governor Nelson mentioned in his State of the State address how the federal government is