

don't think they are probable but the concerns are out there that the Department of Roads may go wild and buy up a huge, huge area and make one big state wetland. The reason I don't think that would occur is certainly the federal government under their guidelines says that the wetlands have to at least be in some of the same nature. In other words, if you're going to have a wetland in southeastern Nebraska, the replacement or mitigated wetland has got to be something like that. You couldn't go out in the middle of the Sandhills and just dig a big pond and make that for wetlands. This amendment that we will be offering as soon as I close here, I think changes that, still allows the flexibility for the Department of Roads to do what needs to be done and yet at the same time will place some restriction and some limit to the amount of those wetlands. I think this bill is imperative that it pass. There are a number of projects and this is not just a rural issue. In fact, if you look at the road project on north Highway 27 going out of Lincoln or the West Bypass in Lincoln, those all involved extensive wetland problems that needed to have wetland mitigation and permits. It affects even the Omaha projects and certainly the areas out in the rest of Nebraska will all run into wetlands problems. With that I would urge the advancement of LB 899 and we will be offering amendment at this point in time to meet the concerns that were had on consent calendar. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Amendment, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, first of all, Senator Lamb, I had an amendment from you, Senator. Withdraw.

SPEAKER BAACK: It is withdrawn.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment I have to the bill is by Senators Lamb, Wickersham and Kristensen. AM4126. Copies have been distributed, I believe. (See page 2034 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. The amendment's been pretty well explained, I think. On consent calendar I did have the concern that if you have any interest in this bill, on LB 899, on page 4 you'll read that it says, the area of the replacement lands may exceed the wetlands area affected. Lands may be acquired to establish a large or