

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: If that's...

SENATOR BEUTLER: ..but buying that one place may be much cheaper than having to buy two places because you have the 150 percent limitation. Is that possible?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Senator, that's exactly the reason I drafted 899 the way I did...

SENATOR BEUTLER: Oh, you did.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: ..and, because of the concerns that they would go out and take this huge expensive area and make one big state wetlands, that's the balance and the trade-off that I had to make. The Department of Roads can live with this amendment.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. Well, having said that, Senator Kristensen, I thank you and I'm going to do what's necessary to advance this bill, but I think that the people who propose this amendment have gained nothing in the sense that I don't think the Highway Department's going to...about to do anything unreasonable in terms of...

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ..wetlands acquisition and I think you've simply made it more expensive probably. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Schmit, followed by Senators Elmer, Abboud and Haberman. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Thank you, Madam President, and I want to...I want to give Senator Haberman a minute or so of my time, but I just would suggest perhaps that frequently, of course, roads are built in wetland areas and, as a result, we all know that for roads to be satisfactorily built you have to drain those areas and we can expect, I would assume, a considerable new expense to be added to highway construction as a result of this federal mandate. That's my point number one. Point number two is that I believe that, without some sort of language in the statute that restricts the acquisition of land, that we can see some time in the future where tracts of wetlands far in excess of replacement tracts will be acquired and we can see a considerable drain from the Highway Trust Funds for that. I'm