

Senator Beutler if, in fact, we could have a discussion on the floor as to what he thought the commitment was from the Environmental Trust, and he said that he would, and we would have that record on the floor. I know we had that discussion in committee, and Senator Beutler, in fact, had mentioned it on the floor of the Legislature before, but some people had not realized that. So one more time for the record, Senator Beutler, if you would please explain the conversations you've had with the Environmental Trust. If Senator Beutler would yield.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, at a point in time last year, I can't remember now whether it was late summer or early fall, but last year somebody had made the suggestion, we had talked about funding and somebody had made the...asked the question of whether the Environmental Trust could assist with funding the studies related to a 108 process. The studies of hydrologically connected waters are going to be the main cost associated with the whole process. And nobody quite knew the answer to the that, and so eventually I ended up going to a meeting of the Environmental Trust. They had invited some people to discuss their activities and to hear about what they had been doing. And we did have an explicit discussion with regard to 108, with regard to the studies that would be required, and the question was asked of John Ellsworth, who is the current chair of that trust, as to whether under their current statutory authority they would be able or feel comfortable funding 108 hydrological studies. And they indicated with a measure of enthusiasm, that they would be; that they thought that those were appropriate kinds of projects for them. And altogether, Ellsworth and the members of the trust who were there that particular day, they expect that the projects will be submitted in the regular mix of projects. But I think we have every reason to expect that they will choose to fund a number of those. I think particularly, when the additional 25 percent of the lottery funds comes in to the Environmental Trust that there will be ample funds for them to make a substantial contribution to these studies.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Thank you, Senator Beutler. And I appreciate that. I know that we had had that information within our committee, but some people seem to be unaware and so I appreciate having that...