

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

April 22, 1999 LB 822

the amendment, and at that time I said I will support the \$150,000 for more monitoring. At the present time, the Department of Environmental Quality tells us they only have the resources to check these streams every five years. Now I know this is money, but what good does it do to pass legislation to protect our trout streams if there's no resources to know what's going on? So, you know, if you want to vote this up or down, that's fine. I am going to ask Senator Beutler to accept an amendment that he's not going to like, but I have it here and I'm going to offer it, and it changes the language in Section 5, instead of the department "shall," it reads, the department "may." That gives them direction and I want to monitor the things you want to monitor. I don't know how expensive each one of these items are but I want them to use the \$150,000 in the most efficient manner possible, and I think rather than us mandating how they should...how they should monitor our streams, we should leave that to the people in DEQ who have the technical knowledge for that. And, Senator Beutler, I'm going to give you some time to respond to that, and I'm going to offer this amendment because I want that \$150,000 to be voted positively by this floor. I'm just not sure mandating how it should be used is in the best interest of the limited resources that we have. Senator Beutler, if you would like to respond, I would give you some time.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Schrock, you're right, I don't particularly like that. But on the other hand, these...these particular items that I have identified here are from DEQ and I think comport to almost everybody's understanding of what the key elements are that we need to monitor. And, you know, I'm probably going to accept the amendment to "may" because you're going to be all over them and I certainly am going to be all over them to see how this money is being used, and if these elements aren't monitored, this Legislature is certainly going to hear about it next year or hear about why. So I think that can work.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Thank you, Senator Beutler, and my concern is that we're not mandating something that's going to take a lot of resources when those resources should be used to monitor