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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. (Visitors introduced.) On with discussion of the Chambers amendment. Senator Janssen.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature. While we're discussing this issue, I thought I should probably turn my light on and talk a little bit about what this state looked like 200 years ago. You know, this summer was the 200th anniversary, this last summer, of the Lewis and Clark expedition that came through Nebraska. And there are a lot of stories about how Lewis and Clark managed to survive on their journey up the Missouri River. And one of them was the abundance of the wildlife that was in this state at that time. They lived off the land, because that's the only provisions that they had, except for a few things like baking powder and so on, that they brought along with them from Saint Louis. But one can just imagine in your mind what this country must have looked like 200 years ago. As time has went on, a lot of the things that Lewis and Clark found on their way up the Missouri River are gone. Some of the wildlife is gone. There isn't the abundance of ducks and geese and deer, buffalo, so on, so forth, that there was at that time. So they managed to live off of the land on their journey up the Missouri River. I go back to...of course, Senator Chambers and I are about the same age. And I remember in the early fifties we used...my dad was quite an avid hunter, and he always took me with him. And the first deer I had seen, I believe it was in the winter of 1952. The Missouri River flooded quite extensively during that spring of 1952, and drove a lot of the deer out of the Missouri Bottom up the tributaries. And our farm was on the Elkhorn River. And we were hunting waterfowl that fall. And one of the fellows, Mr. Thompson (phonetic), that was hunting with us, said, look up the river. There was a deer crossing the Elkhorn River at that time, and that's the first deer I had ever seen, because we did not have deer in that Elkhorn Valley then. I'm sure 200 years prior to that there were plenty of wildlife along that Elkhorn River. But now we have an abundance of deer. I drive from my home to Lincoln every day, and there are carcass...dead carcasses of deer all along that stretch of road, Highway 77. And it really doesn't make any difference what time of the year it is. There is...we're getting back to the point where there