

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Beutler, for the committee amendments.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Crosby, members of the Legislature, the committee amendment deals with one of the minor provisions of the bill and the committee amendment does not make any substantial change. The provision of the bill that is dealt with is on page 6 and 7 of the bill. It's the provision that allows farmers and ranchers to destroy or have destroyed any predator. And the committee amendment does not expand or contract the right to do that. All that the committee amendment does is to say what is the federal law, that is that predators can be destroyed but if the predators happen to be protected or endangered species, protected by one of the federal acts, of course, the state law would be in contradiction to the federal acts and not operative. And all that we were trying to do with this amendment is to give notice to folks that, yes, you can destroy predators, but, hey, if you don't know what endangered species are, you maybe better call Game and Parks and find out so that you don't do something that will get you in trouble, and that is the sole intent of the amendment is to give a little notice. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Any discussion on the committee amendments to 259? Seeing none, Senator Beutler. He waives closing. The question is the adoption of the committee amendments to LB 259. All those in favor vote aye, opposed no. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on the adoption of the committee amendments.

SENATOR CROSBY: The committee amendments are adopted. Senator Will, would you like to open on LB 259?

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body, LB 259 is a bill that I have worked on with the Game and Parks Commission and it was initiated by some sportsmen in my district in reaction to an incident that occurred a few years ago. You may recall that a...I think it was three years ago now, a mountain lion that had wandered into the state along the northern border was shot and killed gratuitously. The mountain lion wasn't doing anything, it was just somebody spotted it and shot and killed it and it came to the people in my district's attention and the state's attention at that point that mountain