

the commission when it is absolutely necessary and when there is no viable alternative. It is also my specific intent that the standard is not lowered as to what constitutes economic or ecologic harm. In other words, just because intermediate regulatory steps are available to the commission doesn't mean that it will now have a basis for prohibiting species that it did not prohibit prior to this act. I also want to make clear that I plan to participate in the public hearing process in the development of the rules and regulations authorized in this amendment to help ensure that the legislative intent of this bill is honored and carried out. If it is not I will be back to address the issue again next year. The other changes contained in this amendment are only technical, so I ask for your adoption of it. I feel that it represents a compromise that will move the producers of alternative livestock in a more productive direction while also respecting the role of wildlife management interests. I also feel that it is very important in that the bill will have a difficult time passing without the adoption of this amendment. With that, I will take any questions that you might have.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Madam Speaker and members, I would only like to make a comment or two to get into the record. First of all, I want to thank Senator Dierks for developing an amendment that does at least spell out some of the concerns of the private entrepreneurs who would like to try to begin, have begun, and in some cases spent considerable money with elk herds, emu and others. We had a lunch not too long ago and those of us who are round like me should be more familiar with this than those of you who aren't, but it's good stuff to eat, it's high in protein, low in fat, it costs more than it should now because of what it takes with that investment to try to raise these herds or flocks or whatever else it might be called. Emu has a hoof, so I'm not sure what you call it, a flock or a herd. But in any case we were concerned legitimately because some years ago, with white-tail deer, the Game and Parks Commission simply overnight decided that nobody could do it and some considerable investments were lost as a result of that. Where there is some concern about a white-tail deer fooling around with a mule deer, whatever it might be that would interfere with the good looks of the breed, I'm not quite sure. Anything...I don't know much about that at all. But I do know this, and I say this not to be silly or facetious, that it's not fair for those people that