

concerns in particular about also the health of wildlife in this state, because recreation is likewise an important industry. I could not see that we would sacrifice the interests of two other industries, and we had to find a balance. If we have been able to find that, and it seems to me we have, I am very appreciative of the work of the committee.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Senator Dierks, yours is the last light on. Would you use this time to close?

SENATOR DIERKS: Yes, I will. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members of the body. I should mention, I mentioned it in my opening, I should mention again that the registration requirements are in place, but the permit requirements are not, but you should also know that these animals are very, very costly, and the producers that are bringing these animals in are going to make awfully sure that they are buying and bringing in healthy animals. They will want all the testing done that they can have done to know that what they bring in is going to be healthy. Now this is just a given. Those animals cost a tremendous amount of money. We have a producer that's trying to bring right now six elk in from Canada, and he has gone through this whole business of testing and quarantine and testing in Canada before he brings them here. This is an extremely important thing in our armor for economic development. It doesn't take a tremendous amount of ground to have some of these animals and some of these birds. People can get into this with a small amount of acreage and it will provide an alternative way for young farmers, who might be having difficulty with the crop production or with livestock production, I'm talking about beef and pork production, or sheep, but it gives them an opportunity to try something a little bit different, and we think it is going to be a very viable business. The thing we need to work on now I think is some way of marketing these animals, some way of getting them processed. They are doing some of that right now, but these are the things, part of the growing industry is somewhat of a young industry. I think it is a great potential for our state, and I would urge your approval of this amendment and advancement of the bill to Final Reading.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Dierks. You've heard the closing on the Dierks' amendment to LB 718. The question is, shall the amendment be adopted? All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.