

answer any questions.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Freister. Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Madam Chairman, members of the body, I rise now to comment on the bill in general, not necessarily on the amendment. Although the amendment does sound reasonable I will let Senator Hudkins determine if that's agreeable with her. I have some constituents that have controlled shooting areas in my district, in District 38. And it's become a very legitimate, sound business for them. And this is not a discussion about cruelty to animals, about the mistreatment of birds. And if somebody wants to talk about deer, that's fine, but it doesn't relate to this bill. I think most farmers kill more pheasants and deer with their pickups than they ever have with firearms. And if we didn't have a hunting season on many species in the State of Nebraska we'd have a terrible problem. As a matter of fact one of my dilemmas now is what am I going to do with the beavers in the creek outside my...a quarter mile from home because they're really a nuisance and a problem. But be that as it is, pheasants are not a nuisance, they're a game bird. And I don't know if God put them on earth for us to shoot, but it's become an accepted sporting activity. And I think if we did not recognize that we'd have the people in the State of Nebraska rise up in great anger and wonder what are we doing in the Legislature. The game farm at Arapahoe, Nebraska that has the controlled shooting area releases 10,000 pheasants a year. And to think that these poor birds are just slaughtered may or may not be a good characterization of what goes on, but I can tell you at least 50 percent of them are not harvested by hunters. Fifty percent of them are...go outside the boundaries, go elsewhere, and some of them are, of course, harvested by other hunters, some are taken by hawks, some are taken by other predators. But it has probably enhanced the whole population of the pheasant population of the State of Nebraska. If we don't want to do this activity in Nebraska, if we don't want the tourist dollars and the dollars that come from this sporting activity they have these game farms and preserves or hunting areas in South Dakota and Kansas, we can just put a sign on our border saying we're not open for hunting, go elsewhere. Now most of us would probably rather go out and walk somebody stubble field and shoot one that was not a domestically raised bird and was released. But a lot of people don't have the time and when they go out and hunt they'd like to see some action. And I think this is a legitimate way to provide that kind of