

access to the bill itself, and if you don't I'll help you out, for a commercial or private controlled shooting area, if the commission finds, and it gives a number of things that they have to find, the area of the size specified, the area is contiguous, the area has the proper requirements for operation, the game birds propagated are released, are not likely to be diseased or a menace to other animals or game, the operation will not work a fraud upon persons who may be permitted to hunt on the area, and the issuance of a license will otherwise be in the public interest. Well, I personally feel, and I think there are others in this body that will agree with me, that persons within a ten-mile radius is extremely broad. Ten miles is too far. The original law said that the areas had to be at least five miles apart. There was no problem with the public and now we're changing it to ten? You already have public interest. The Game and Parks will be looking at that. They will be having a public hearing. They will be looking at the location. They will be looking at housing developments. They will be listening to residents who come in and speak for or against, just like we do here at our public hearings. I attended a public hearing last week on whether we were going to allow a judge to have his position stayed. That was a public hearing. We were getting the public interest. To have a ten-mile radius is extremely too much. If the Game and Parks were to notify all of these people this could, in fact, and depending on where the controlled shooting area was, involve every resident of that county, which I think is totally unnecessary and I am in opposition to this particular amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Hudkins. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Bernard-Stevens, members of the Legislature, this is a... this is a tough amendment because, on the one hand, on matters of general and broad public concern I would not be in favor of elevating the interests of those who happen to be nearest to a particular facility or needed operation, elevating their concern above anybody else's in the sense that if it's in the public interest it should be in the broader public interest in the first instance. This may be viewed a little bit differently 'cause it deals with controlled shooting areas, hardly a matter of vital public concern. Deals with shooting guns, certainly a matter of more local concern, concern of those near. Whether ten miles is the proper range or not, it seems to me a little broad so I can see where many of us