

CLERK: It is, Senator, on page 2427.

SENATOR PREISTER: So for those who choose to check on that amendment, I will go through the amendment and explain what I'm trying to do with this amendment. It basically deals with the areas adjoining a controlled shooting area that perhaps would be game refuges, areas where there would be habitats set aside for the propagation of wildlife, particularly those species like the bald eagle and others that we have concerns about and would like to see maintained and continue to increase their numbers rather than, in some cases, the decrease which has been taking place. Originally, I had a five-mile distance that I had allotted as a buffer zone between a controlled shooting area and a game refuge, a wildlife refuge, a sanctuary. I have reduced that to two miles out of people's concern for the distance. I know that Senator Janssen had a bill last year that dealt with the airboats that were moving up and down the Platte River adjoining these sanctuaries for wildlife. We passed that bill and those airboats are no longer allowed to go along those wildlife sanctuaries so that they do prevent the kind of destruction to wildlife. That's the intent of this amendment, to allow for a buffer zone, to allow for an area between the controlled shooting area, between where there is going to be an excessive amount of shooting, there's going to be a higher percentage, a much greater percentage of people out shooting just because the birds are being propagated and released in the controlled shooting areas and therefore they will be in far greater numbers than normal hunting would be. Those greater numbers of released birds, that greater number of shooting, I believe, is going to increase the amount of disruption of those game refuges and the animals that are attempting to nest and to live in those areas and my amendment intends to address that concern by saying that a controlled shooting area cannot be licensed within two miles of an existing game refuge or a nature preserve. I understand that the actual game refuge is the Platte River and that there is a buffer between the actual banks of the river and the controlled shooting area, particularly the one, and we will begin to hear more about this particular shooting area along the Platte River. And if anyone would like, I believe that there are some of the neighbors, who live adjoining that area, in the Rotunda who would be more than happy to answer questions and to visit with members of the body regard'ng their concerns for the safety of their families and the potential that a future controlled shooting area, a private controlled shooting area