

January 8, 1996 LB 584

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: And I don't...I can't speak to the other part of Senator Wickersham's amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Vrtiska to speak to the Wehrbein amendment, Wickersham amendment.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Madam President. I really don't need to speak because I think it's been pretty well defined. I had a concern about the original amendment. I didn't realize this was coming up, so I'll defer at this moment and I have some questions about the main amendment a little later. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Senator Wehrbein to speak.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Can I...is it closing yet?

PRESIDENT ROBAK: No. No, Senator.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I'd waive at this point.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Beutler to speak to the Wehrbein amendment.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I don't know that there's anything much more to be said about whether you take 80 acres or 160 acres. I'm kind of ambivalent myself as to what the correct number is. I guess you should just keep in mind, though, what you think a real owner of real...of what a real farmer or rancher is and I suppose as the closer you get down to 80, 60, 40 acres, you're not talking about farmers and ranchers anymore. You're talking about a lot of city people that might live out there and own acreages. And maybe when you get to 80 acres you're suddenly a farmer or rancher. I'm sure it doesn't correlate exactly to the size of your property. I'm not sure that that's a very good measurement in some cases, but it seemed to be about the only kind of measurement we had. For myself, I'm more comfortable with 150 acres these days being a farmer. I mean the average size farm is like 600 acres now. If you're not farming 160, I'm thinking that maybe you're not really quite a rancher or a farmer and wouldn't fit within the original philosophy of why you would want to give a permit to somebody for one-fifth the price and which allows them in some cases to hunt both sex animals and some other privileges. So that's the whole...that's