

whether it was with my husband or my father or my son, and I thoroughly enjoy fishing and have looked over the period what has happened to some of our lakes and what would need to be to improve them. And I also want you to consider that Game and Parks is, a majority of their money comes from cash funds. And general appropriations you will not find used for this type of a project. So if they're going to want to improve the fishing in the state of Nebraska, it will need to come from the anglers themselves who are asked to pay for this. The current habitat stamp that is in place for hunting has been very successful. It, again, is a cash fund, and I think those that hunt will tell you that they have not in any way, shape, or form resented the fact that they have had increased the amount of money that they need to pay to improve the habitat, that it's been a successful program, and that's what this one is patterned after. The other thing that we have deleted, that currently was in place, what's called a trout stamp. The trout stamp was added to the fishing license at the time of, when Crawford was flooded out and that trout hatchery and so forth needed some improvement, and trout fishermen wanted to see more of the fish, the fingerlings, a small fish that were stocked in lakes. And that has been eliminated because we consider that really part of the habitat and so we would not, we have done away with the trout stamp in this. Just the fact that you can stock lakes with small fish doesn't necessarily mean that the fishing will improve. I think that's been proven over the last few years, and this, this is a plan to look at how we could increase the numbers of fish in lakes and streams and ponds, how fishing would be better in those that enjoy the sport, that participate in the sport, would be those that would be the ones that are going to help pay for the program that we have to improve that aquatic life in our streams. With that I would be...I'm sure you have some questions. The amendment has changed over what the bill was a little bit before, so if you're looking at the old bill, be sure and look at the changes because we have tried to accommodate some of the concerns that people had in the original bill. And if you have any questions, I would entertain them at this time and ask for your support. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Hillman. Senator Beutler, on the Hillman amendment.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Crosby, members of the Legislature, I just wanted to stand and briefly support the Hillman amendment