

have in front of me the 1996 combination hunting and fishing license. It cost \$22.25. It has a ten dollar habitat stamp on it. I'll probably purchase the migratory bird stamp before the season is over. And if this passes, then I'll have to purchase an aquatic stamp. Now I'm not saying it's something that I can't afford, I'm not saying it's something I'm opposed to, but we should be mindful that this is a cost that our sportsmen will bear. It kind of come to me as I was sitting at the desk here that we're trying to improve habitat for our fisheries. We have some tremendous volunteer organizations in this state. We have Pheasants Forever doing a tremendous job in central Nebraska increasing habitat. A matter of fact, they've asked to rent some land out in the area for \$75 an acre and they want to plant trees on it and plant foraging food for the pheasants. We have Ducks Unlimited. It would occur to me that if the fishermen in this state wanted to increase their habitat, maybe they should get involved in a volunteer organization and do something to help their, their industry a little bit. Maybe there is something that I'm not aware of. This is a five dollar fee for this aquatic stamp. I do wonder why not just raise the price of the license so I don't have to put three stamps on my combination hunt/fish license instead of just two. I would certainly be more in favor of that, but it's not a big deal to me. The mail I received on this issue last year was all opposed to an increase. That makes it difficult to vote for it. I do appreciate the fact that the fee has been decreased. But I know it goes for a good cause so I have mixed emotions about it. And, Senator Hillman, if you'd like to respond to anything I have said you can certainly have the remainder of my time.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Hillman, you have about two and half minutes.

SENATOR HILLMAN: I think probably one of the things that, in looking at, and there are some very good groups out there that have done some fund raising in the area of hunting, and some of the...and they've done some things on their own where it comes to, in the nesting places for wildlife birds and so forth. I think one of the things that we're looking at here with the types of projects that will need to be done, you know, we're looking at projects that talk about improving streams through bank stabilization and to place structures that would diversify habitat, creating riffles, which is a plan that they do in the lakes, runs, and pools and so forth. I think those projects are