

January 25, 1996 LB 584

SENATOR HILGERT: Madam Chairperson, members, I could talk about that the long history of excellent stewardship that the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission has on their projects, but I won't, I think that's a matter of public record. But I did want to draw attention to Senator Avery's comments about the importance of preserving our aquatic habitat. It is very, very, very expensive to reclaim and to construct if we should lose this aquatic habitat. You could talk about the...I have nothing against pheasants, I've been pheasant hunting before, but, frankly, his comments about the construction of pheasant habitat being simpler and a quicker return compared to that of aquatic habitat, I couldn't...it's so true. I've been exposed to these issues all my life. My brother was with the federal in-stream flow group when we did a study a long time ago about the Norden Dam. He was involved in that. I think that we should preserve this aquatic habitat. I think that these, that the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission are professionals. I think they'll be good stewards of our, of these funds. And I think that this will benefit the fish and I think also they'll be collateral benefits to the communities when they draw more people down. You could almost talk about economic development with this thing. I am fully supportive of this and I'll be voting for it. Of course I've been, I'm cognizant of the same concerns that Senator Preister had as far as you hate to raise any fee, but when you're going to do something the money has to come from somewhere, and a user's fee is the best way to do it. I'll yield the rest of my time. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you. Senator Avery, you gave the rest of your time to Senator Avery? To...oh.

SENATOR AVERY: I appreciate those comments. And it's true, we...

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Avery, you only have about a minute.

SENATOR AVERY: I'll pass.

SENATOR CROSBY: Your light was...yeah, he just tossed you a little time. Senator Hudkins.

SENATOR HUDKINS: Thank you, Madam President and members of the body. I just have a couple of questions for Senator Hillman if