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LB 176

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Matzke, you're recognized.

SENATOR MATZKE: Thank you, Madam President. I don't have anything to add to my prior statement. I took some time from Senator Bohlke. I'll respond to further comments later on. Thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Senator Matzke, did you say you wish to give some to Senator Bohlke? Is that what you said? Okay. Thank you. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Madam President, members. I rise to, I guess, defend myself in my intent with the amendment that was adopted last week. By no means, did I intend for a 2-year-old or a 4-year-old to be able to drive watercraft that can go up to 85 miles an hour on...it would have to be glass-smooth water. But I do rise to oppose this amendment and for this reason. Reading through the rules and regs, which I handed out a sample of two pages out of the actual rules and reg handbook of Game and Parks, handy little boating guide, "1999 Nebraska Boating Guide". And in that, in rules and regs, it says no one under 14 years of age shall operate a motorboat of any class at any time. The owner shall be held responsible. And I...it is my opinion that if we can address issues in rules and regs without going through the process of legislating a matter, the better off we are. That's why I chose to not address the age issue within statute. It's already addressed in rules and reg and I...I just preferred to leave it that way. I believe that with changing technology, there can be an item that would come out on the market that is acceptable for various age, according to the commission. The commission can devise those rules and regs and they have the safety...they have more background to the issues than we do, really. And so I'd just as soon leave that in their department and in that agency where it can best be handled. And once again, I oppose this amendment and I urge my colleagues to do so as well. Thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you. Senator Schrock, you're recognized to speak.