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SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Stuthman.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Mr. Speaker, am I permissible to speak on the amendment, or the bill itself?

SPEAKER BROMM: I think, Senator, that the discussion has been going on both, so I think you may proceed.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: My comments would be towards the bill itself. Visiting with people in my rural area, they're very much concerned about the possibility of these fees being raised. I know a senator did state that, you know, at the present time the fees won't be raised. But that gives them the ability, if this is passed, that they can raise the fees any time they wish to do so. I am very much concerned about this. It continually erodes on the ability of the people in the rural areas to pay for this. Income has been very limited in my region, because of the drought. And I think if these fees are raised, I'm very much concerned that there's going to be people that will be doing hunting and fishing without permits. And I'm very much concerned about that at the present time. So I am not in favor of raising these fees. Yes, it's not going to raise them right away. But this bill does give them the ability to raise them. So that's my comments. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Stuthman. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'm going to keep characterizing these as what they are: tax increases. And you all are giving them carte blanche within this range. And that's so they do not have to come before the Legislature and contend with me. Other people roll over and accept everything Game and Parks presents, practically speaking, except me. So in the same way the Governor would call a special session to avoid having to deal with me, Game and Parks is going to get the rest of the Legislature to give them these brackets within which they can raise fees without any legislative oversight. They will never reduce a fee. Senator Stuhr had mentioned these new areas that are opening, these chronic wasting diseases, West Nile. And there's one called Whitecastle (sic--Newcastle) that's going to hit the chickens pretty soon.