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January 27, 2003 LB 306

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Senator Stuhr.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. I did want to point out that the green sheet that you received refers to the present fee range and the proposed range in LB 306, and also specifies the current licensing permit or fee. And I would like to point out on that green sheet, a resident hunting license is now \$11; \$11 to hunt 365 days of the year, \$15 for fishing. So those are, I think, very, very modest. Now, the other sheet that you received shares and gives you some information from the various states, neighboring states, and the fee schedule that they have in their states. Again, this bill merely allows the commissioners to raise the fees if necessary. And there are a number of things that have been pointed out. Enforcement. We all want enforcement. We simply cannot have this, unless...with the rate of inflation...that we are looking at some possible increase in the future. It's been ten years since this fee structure, this cap has been put on. And we're just looking at trying to expand it. We're seeing more people hunting and fishing than we have in the past. And I think that's all kind of a result from 9-11. People are wanting to stay close to home. They're using the facilities more. They're wanting more fishing opportunities, they're wanting more hunting opportunities. And the people that use this kind of permit will then in turn also be doing the paying. So if you don't hunt or fish, this really does not concern you personally. On the amendment, it is purely a technical amendment, and I would ask for your support.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. Senator Chambers. And I believe this is your third time on the amendment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes. Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I'm going to speak every time I get a chance. I don't fish. I never have fished. I find that practice to be revolting. I don't hunt. I find that practice to be barbaric, dehumanizing, and uncivilized. So why should I care how much you charge people to do those things that I have never participated in, never will participate in, did not allow my children to participate in, and have always condemned? Why?