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FLOOR DEBATE

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and I can tell you it's something that a lot of citizens of the state of Nebraska are very interested in. This is a constitutional amendment, and would add to the state's constitution, which says, "Fishing, trapping, and hunting are a valued part of the heritage of the people and will be a right forever preserved for the people subject to reasonable restrictions as prescribed by law." A little history on LR 4CA. It was introduced last year. It did come up on the floor. We just had opening statements and we passed over it because of time considerations. But this year, I would hope that we would put it on the ballot for the public to vote on this fall. We are not a pioneer in doing this. The states of North Dakota, Alabama, Vermont, Virginia, Minnesota, Wisconsin have passed constitutional amendments to protect the right to hunt and fish. In Wisconsin, voter approval was 82 percent, and Minnesota was over 75 percent. I'm very confident that if you'll help me put this on the ballot, it will pass overwhelmingly. Seven states have a constitutional amendment to protect the rights to bear arms, while hunting, two states have constitutional amendments protecting the right to fish--they are Rhode Island and California--and two have statutes to the same effect as LR 4CA, but not constitutional amendments--and they are Florida and Georgia. The amendment recognizes the traditions and value of the sportsman, and recognizes the economic benefits associated with outdoor sports. Nebraska supports over 173,000 hunters, 296,000 anglers, and supports over 8,800 jobs, \$182 million in salaries and wages, and over \$31 million in state tax revenue. And if you don't believe that the citizens spend money on hunting and fishing, just go to Cabela's on a weekend, and you'll see what's going on there. A lot of people I think probably spend their Christmas bonuses at Cabela's, Senator Janssen. Hunting and fishing is very valued, and trapping is an important component of this. I think sometimes when I talk to you about issues like this, it's better if I can get personal, because probably the trapping is the most objectionable to some people on this floor. I can tell you that we have a seed shed on our farm, and we scatter out rat poison and mice poison to kill the mice and the rats so they don't eat up the seed and destroy the seed. Well, we found out last year that possums will get into our seed shed, and they'll eat the rat poison, and it doesn't affect them. They just keep on going. So our