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FLOOR DEBATE

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people of Minnesota adopted an amendment to the Minnesota Constitution that provides hunting and fishing, and the taking of game of fish are a valued part of our heritage and shall be forever preserved for the people and shall be managed by law and regulation for the public good. The popular vote in favor of this amendment was one of the most overwhelming for support of a change to the constitution in Minnesota history. When the hunting and fishing amendment was proposed to the Minnesota Legislature, substantial concerns were expressed by some individuals and groups. Some argued that such a provision would prevent legitimate conservation management programs for wildlife. It has had no such effect. Indeed, the amendment clearly permits management to maintain catch and bag limits and seasons. Others argued that the provisions would prohibit their efforts at gun control. It doesn't do that either. It permits reasonable safety regulations of fire arms. In brief, a state constitutional amendment protecting hunting and fishing rights permits continued reasonable regulations directed at legitimate state objectives. To the best of my knowledge, there have been no challenges to the state's hunting or fishing rules under this provision. The overwhelming support given this amendment in the popular referendum shows that the citizens of Minnesota want to keep hunting and fishing a choice for themselves and their children. Only a tiny, although I would say it's a very vocal, minority oppose giving people this opportunity. Putting this question to a popular vote in a constitutional amendment referendum can resolve the debate by showing the wishes of the people of Nebraska. If I can be of further assistance in your consideration of this matter, please feel free to contact me; signed, Fred L. Morrison, a professor law, University of Minnesota. I will furnish you a copy of this, Senator Beutler. I understand your concerns. And I know there are people that think this is frivolous, but I do want to protect the right to hunt, fish, and trap for my grandchildren, and I don't know if they'll be on the farm like I am and like my sons are, and if they can enjoy the outdoors like I have, but I can tell you hunting and fishing was a valued part of my growing up and I hope it would continue. Senator Beutler, I'm glad that you have enjoyed the outdoors and have taken the opportunity to hunt this fall. It's a very good activity. One of the things we do in this state is teach hunter safety. So, Senator Beutler, would