

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

January 13, 2004 LR 4

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. We will now go where we left off when we recessed for lunch. Mr. Clerk, state where we were at that time.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Schrock had presented LR 4CA to the body. Senator Chambers had pending FALL67 to that resolution. (Legislative Journal page 643, First Session, 2003.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. We will continue debate on the Chambers amendment, FALL67. Senator Don Pederson.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I was real torn as to whether to stand and speak about this matter. Senator Ed Schrock and I are very close friends, and if there was ever anybody I was going to go hunt and fish with it would be Ed Schrock. He invited me this last summer to go with him and I couldn't do it, but I'm not a hunter and, when I fish, I'm a very poor fisherman. I respect the rights of people to both hunt and fish, and I think that we should guard those rights in almost every way possible. However, I do not believe that amending our constitution to preserve those rights is appropriate. I hold the constitution to be a pretty sacred document. It's more of a preservation of public rights, and this is actually a personal interest thing. The hunting and fishing business is a particular segment of our society. It's not treating the overall society, which I think is what we should be looking at in our constitution. So if this was a bill that was presented to us saying that hunting and fishing are important and we should preserve them, I would vote for it. But as an amendment to our constitution, I think that minimizes the supreme doctrine of our state and I think I cannot support that for that reason. And I'm sorry to say that for Senator Schrock because I respect him greatly, I respect why he is doing what he's doing, but I think that this is totally inappropriate to put this into our constitution. Why put it in the constitution? Why do anybody...or why do any of the groups want to put things in our constitution? And the only reason is not to preserve the law, but merely to make it very, very difficult to ever try and change it. And I think that concern