

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

January 13, 2004 LR 4

It's for the next generation. And some states have had this in their constitution over 200 years, and I think it's time we put it to a vote of the people and let them decide. It passed by 82 percent in Wisconsin, over 75 percent in Minnesota. I have no doubt it will do that here. So I'm just trying to do the will of the public, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, it occurs to me that we're in a bad way if what we try to do in this Legislature is to play upon and employ the fear of some small radical group becoming a majority at some distant point in time in the future. My God, we could ensconce every value we have today into the constitution to try to protect them all. Don't we have...don't we have problems enough with the real problems of today and now rather than trying to anticipate two generations from now and imagine that somehow they're going to be so different from us and that this value is so important to us that we need to worry about such a distant phenomena, possible phenomena? I really do think that this is not a good basis upon which to be working...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...and making laws today. We have all kinds of problems before us this session that deal with real problems, and I think that's what we should be focusing on. And, Senator, I don't have time right now but I want to get back to you on what the current laws in Game and Parks are and whether you perceive any of those as being unreasonable regulations. So I will return to you. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Pedersen, Dwite, that is. I'm sorry.

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. This isn't an issue that I would usually talk on, but...and most people wouldn't see me in this realm, but I am a gun-toting ex-trapper. I did some trapping when I was a school teacher in a one-room country schoolhouse, the reservation up in South Dakota every day on the way back and forth from my country schoolhouse. It's a great sport and it's a great sense of being alone out there in the society. And some people I know trap with