

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Honorable President, brothers and sisters. I like that when you say that, Senator Chambers, brothers and sisters. Ninety percent, and the question is what is the margin of victory the LR 8CA will get at the polls by Nebraska voters. And that's probably conservative. I think it'll probably get higher than 90 percent voting in favor of it. That's not even a question to me. I think the vast majority of Nebraskans are going to see it if it's on the ballot as a nonevent. The media... I'll be Nostradamus here. The media will see there's nothing to even report. Everybody in Nebraska supports it. In this discussion, I've yet to hear anybody say we shouldn't have fishing or hunting except perhaps Senator Chambers may want to arm the prairie dogs so they can fight back more fairly. But I haven't heard anybody say that hunting and fishing isn't a part of our heritage. I have yet to hear anybody say we shouldn't hunt or fish or trap. I don't see it even as an issue, and I don't think the media is going to see it as an issue. I think this is going to pass. I think if it needs to get to that, we'll get cloture, it'll be on the ballot, it'll pass. It will be a nonevent, and because of that, I don't think we even need it. This is Nebraska, this is where we're always going to have these things as a part of our heritage, whether it's in the constitution or in statute. We aren't going to change even the state laws in the future except for needed minor modifications because this is so much a part of the attitude and the mentality of Nebraskans. We will be putting in constitution the right to trap and it's almost carving out special legislation because the last time I checked with Game and Parks, there were just over 200 people who even were legally trapping in the state of Nebraska. It's not happening because of PETA, it's happening because who wants to go out there and walk those trap lines in the winter? You've got to be pretty dedicated to even participate in that part of hunting. And I've trapped, I have hunted, I've fished and done so legally, and I don't have a problem with doing those things legally and I think most people in Nebraska do them legally. Most of my family members still go out and actively enjoy these pastimes and I agree with their right to be able to do them. But I have to agree with Senator Beutler and Senator Chambers and others that the constitution is not the place where we put this as a guarded and privileged part of our constitution, particularly in light