

you're next.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Mr. Chairman and members of the body, I...I think every member has a copy of the letter that was handed out and I just wanted to ask Senator Avery a question, if I might, if he would yield.

SENATOR AVERY: Yes.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Senator Avery, this was handed out and indicates by the introducer and supporter of the turtle, so-called turtle bill that she did not want to have this put on and you had indicated that she was in support. I would like to have your response.

SENATOR AVERY: I'm not sure exactly when we received this. Senator Preister had passed this out. I know she testified at the hearing and was in full support of this portion of the bill. Her original concerns were that the bill with the adoption or the addition of the aquaculture portion would pull down the bill and cause it not to be passed. Her...as she has indicated to me, her real interest is to protect turtles, the reptiles of the state, and make sure that they are controlled. The second portion definitely does a lot in that in establishing the Game Commission to come up with a list and a policy on all the species, fish, turtles, frogs, toads, all those species that...including the turtles that she has a real concern for.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you. I just thought it was important that this issue be for the record that because you had made the statement that she was in complete agreement with this and yet this letter was suddenly dropped on everybody's desk and I thought the record should indicate that, in fact, there seemed to be some difference of opinion as to whether she is supporting this or not. I don't really have any problem with the bill but I just thought the record should show that this document was passed around and that some clarification be coming forth. So, with that, I thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Senator Preister.

SENATOR PREISTER: Honorable President, friends all, I just want to thank Senator Vrtiska for bringing that up. Yes, this is a letter and it is of concern and Angie Byorth was definitely concerned that the bill might get bogged down with amendments