

# COMMITTEE STATEMENT

## LB 957

HEARING DATE: January 25, 2000

COMMITTEE ON: Agriculture

TITLE: (Dierks, Schrock, Wehrbein) Create the Carbon Sequestration Advisory Committee

### ROLL CALL VOTE – FINAL COMMITTEE ACTION

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X Advanced to General File

Advanced to General File with Amendments

Indefinitely Postponed

#### Vote Results:

7	Yes	Senators Chambers, Cudaback, Dickey, Dierks, Hilgert, Schrock, Vrtiska
0	No	
0	Present, not voting	
1	Absent	Senator Janssen

#### PROPOSERS

Senator Merton L. Dierks, #40

Cydney Janssen

Dick Mercer

Hope Hasenkamp-Gibbs

Andy Jensen

Rob Robertson

Dennis Adams

Loran Schmit

#### REPRESENTING

Introducer

Nebraska Farm Policy Task Force

Nebraska Farm Policy Task Force

Nebraska Public Power District

Nebraska Power Association

Nebraska Corn Growers Association

Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation

Nebraska State Forester

Self

#### OPPOSERS

#### REPRESENTING

#### NEUTRAL

Steve Chick

John M. Kimble

Ken Cassman

#### REPRESENTING

USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service

USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service

Institute of Agriculture & Natural Resources / UNL

#### SUMMARY OF PURPOSE AND/OR CHANGES:

**LB 957 assigns a duty to the Director of the Natural Resources Commission to assess agricultural lands in the state for purposes of determining carbon stored in agricultural soils and future carbon sequestration potential. A report of the Director's findings would be**

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published by January 1, 2002, and such report could be updated from time to time. The assessment would seek to establish a baseline of the carbon content of soils and to quantify induced carbon sequestration associated with various agricultural practices, management systems and land uses occurring on agricultural land in the state. The bill authorizes the Director to contract and cooperate with the Natural Resources Conservation Service of USDA to perform necessary assessment activities. Additionally, LB 957 would require the Director to provide a report to the Legislature on matters relating to carbon sequestration and the potential for the development of carbon trading systems.

Both of the Director's duties under the act would be carried out with the advice and assistance of a thirteen-member Carbon Sequestration Advisory Committee created by the bill. In addition to its advisory role to the Director, the committee shall recommend programs to enhance producers' participating in carbon markets, encourage production of educational and advisory materials, and identify areas of research needed to better understand and quantify the processes of carbon sequestration.

### Section-by-Section summary:

#### Section 1: Intent Section

**Section 2:** Creates the Carbon Sequestration Advisory Committee consisting of thirteen members. Provides for reimbursement of expenses and housing the Committee administratively within the Natural Resources Commission.

**Section 3.** Prescribes duties of the Advisory Committee, primarily in advising the Natural Resources Commission in its duties under section 4 and 5 of the bill.

**Section 4:** Provides a duty for the Director of the Natural Resources Commission to prepare a report to the Legislature by December 1, 2000 on matters relating to carbon sequestration, particularly as it pertains to potential development of carbon trading systems.

**Section 5:** Provides a duty for the Director to perform an assessment of agricultural lands in Nebraska for past and future carbon sequestration potential. A report of the Director's findings are to be completed by January 1, 2002. Provides that the Director may contract with the Natural Resources Conservation Service of USDA to conduct assessment activities.

**Section 6:** Creates a cash fund for appropriations, gifts, grants etc. for purposes of the Act.

#### Section 7: Emergency Clause

### EXPLANATION OF AMENDMENTS, IF ANY:

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Senator Merton L. Dierks, Chairman