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LB 870

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the Legislature, at this point I'm going to stand in support of Senator Preister's amendment. I wonder who we are to serve here? Are we to serve those people who are trying to build livestock facilities, or are we to serve the local citizens of the local subdistricts? And if we have in place, through local control, the ability of counties and zoning commissions to provide input in the process, shouldn't that be heard before it comes to the state for those...for those...for the Department of Environmental Quality to exercise their options? I just think that local control is what we've always asked for, that's what people we represent have asked for. We've given them that with...we would give them that with Senator Preister's amendment and I think that it deserves consideration. We had a difference of opinion here a year ago when we were talking about this issue. Most people who were supporting 1209, and I was not, were concerned about allowing this expansion to take place without any hurdles...almost. I think the hurdles need to be in place. If you could come to my district and see what's happened out there with expansion of these hog facilities with those people doing the expansion thumbing their nose at the local citizens, with the attention given by all the state agencies to expedite the permit process rather than to slow it down, with...but the hearings that I've gone to and the round table discussions I've gone to and the people who are so intimately involved with it and the residents of the area and their inability to have any effect on what goes on with DEQ and the permitting process it's...it becomes extremely burdensome to those people and I think you should recognize that and to give them the opportunity that's present in this amendment of Senator Preister's to have local input make the decision before they go to the state so that the state can have that local input to look at before they make a decision. I would urge your support of this amendment and I think what it does is provide us with local control. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Mr. President, members of the body, may I ask Senator Schrock a question first?