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SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Debate on the Dierks amendment? Senator Wehrbein. Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I rise to support the Dierks amendment. And I thought it interesting what the LB 1209 Task Force said about composting, so I'm going to read it to you. It's quite brief: The task force finds that, with mandatory training, the practice of composting should be allowed as a method of dead animal disposal by the Nebraska livestock producers of the livestock under 600 pounds...keep in mind, the amendment is for livestock under 300 pounds...without additional processing. Extensive testing in other states, under controlled conditions, has confirmed the effectiveness of composting for mortality...for mortality disposal. Information provided to the task force indicates that composting results in a nearly odorless, inoffensive, pathogen-free product that can be used as an organic fertilizer. The task force also finds that composting could provide producers with a cost-effective method of livestock disposal.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. Senator Dierks, I apologized to you privately, and I apologize to you on the floor for that error. It actually, as it turns out, is my left-handed scribble, which is not legible. So it was my hand that made the mistake, not my mind. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: To close?

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: To close.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I accept the apology. Veterinarians don't usually do too well with their penmanship either, Senator Beutler. And to Senator Schrock's remarks about the 600 pound limits, we discussed that in committee, and we were more comfortable as a committee dealing with up to 300 pounds at this point rather than 600 pounds. And I think we can revisit that, of course, next year. Thank you