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what you're doing here and I would ask the body to vote red on this. I think it's inappropriate, it's ill timed. Let the Natural Resources Committee study this. Give us some time on this. But we're not an ag friendly state and agriculture, I think, is still important to the state of Nebraska, and this would just be one more step to making us an unfriendly ag state. And if the General Funds can't help the livestock industry a little bit, then I think it's a sad day. We're trying to have an ethanol industry in this state but we have a hard time getting any General Fund money for that support. So, I'm sorry, this is not the time; this is not the place. Let us have a discussion in the interim on what to do about this, but we don't want to lay this burden on the livestock industry. Talk to any cattle feeder and they tell you up until January they spent 19 months of red. No profit in feeding cattle. The people producing swine in this state are having a tough time keeping their head afloat. And one of the major swine producers in the state, by the way, I understand is out of business. So, yes, you can place these fees on the livestock producers in the state, but you're just going to have more of them throw up their hands and quit, and this is neither the time or the place to do something like this.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Thank you, Senator Schrock. Chair would recognize Senator Stuthman.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you, Lieutenant Governor and members of the body. I also rise in opposition to this amendment. I am very much concerned with what is happening in the areas of the state as far as the livestock industry is concerned. The additional fees to a very small operation, a small operation and that I mean by a class I, which is 1,000 or less, which we are truly trying to promote for farmers and ranchers in the state of Nebraska, the small operators, we're really trying to promote that, the increase, according to my calculations on this, will be, from what it is right at the present time to what the new one would be, would be...the initial permitting process right now is \$350. With this amendment it raises that to \$800, which on an operation of 1,000 head or less, you know, is a dollar a head, which is going to cost...that would be the cost for the permitting process. The thing that also concerns me is the