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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 373

waste control facility over 2,500 animal units. At that time, state statute included a requirement for public notice of permit applications for operations greater than...let me turn the page...

SENATOR BAKER: Time, Senator Fischer.

SENATOR FISCHER: Thank you.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Senator Fischer, Senator Schrock. The speaking order is Senator Flood, Bourne, Brown, and Schrock. Senator Flood, you're recognized to speak.

SENATOR FLOOD: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I stand in strong support of LB 373 for several reasons. As a freshman senator, looking at term limits down the road, our offices are the offices that get the calls as to what's going to happen. There may be some members in here that will be gone in a year and they also enjoy maybe 15, 20, 25, or maybe 35 years of experience in the Legislature. As a new state senator, I think this bill will provide us an ability to get the attention of an agency that fails to respond in a timely manner, and that has been the case throughout our freshman year. If you look at a professional corporation or an S corp or whatever type of corporation that the Secretary of State's might...Office might manage or oversee, you find we have shareholders, a board of directors, and officers of the corporation. In this state, the people would be the shareholders. The board of directors, in my opinion, together with the Governor, comprising two branches of government, compromise the board of directors; and the officers represent the agencies...or the agencies represent the officers. The officers of a corporation do not make rules that cannot be overruled by the board of directors without significant trouble. It should be easy for us to get the attention of an agency, and I would think that, as Senator Byars and I were talking, some agencies would welcome this type of oversight in an effort to relieve some of their responsibilities. Agency responsiveness, getting the attention of somebody in an agency to respond in a timely manner to a concern that you have, has been troubling to me. I've called an agency repeatedly, based on a constituent complaint or something that I see happen in my district. I do