

the ability to determine what is the best plan for the State of Nebraska. There are several chemicals vital to Nebraska and they could potentially be banned outright in the near future by some of the proposals of FIFRA, and one of them is atrazine, in the states that do not have a statewide management plan, and needless to say this would be devastating to ag competitiveness to our farmers and the state. Second, I am very concerned about EPA's patience with Nebraska, which may come to an end and EPA may choose to make a regulatory example of our state. Finally, I want to point out to my colleagues that LB 349 is a short-term rather than a long-term response to our FIFRA program, and I am hoping that next year we can return with a comprehensive bill that sets forth in detail a statewide management plan, and I think this is probably the bottom line, the bill would be designed to simply get the ball rolling, and it will give us time to work out on some of these deals, I am sure there will be statewide meetings to develop this plan. In closing, I would note that 349 is supported by many of the major farm organizations, including the Corn Growers, the Nebraska Coop Council, the Nebraska Farm Bureau, and, finally, the bill as amended is supported by the Department of Agriculture and its administration, and I urge you to adopt the committee amendments, and then to support the passage of the bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Rogers. Discussion of the committee amendments, Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. This issue has been around the body of the Legislature and the Agriculture Committee for as long as I have been here, which is beginning to seem like quite a long time. In all of its other forms and the circumstances that existed at times, from time to time in the past, I have always been a person who opposed the state taking over the enforcement of the Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act. But we came to that place in history when it is becoming necessary to do that. Senator Rogers mentioned the preemption language that is in this particular bill. Last year, there was a decision by the federal courts with regard to an issue that arose out of some action that a township board took in the State of Wisconsin, and the court said basically this, that unless the state preempts the right to regulate pesticides within the state, then subdivisions of government are free to do whatever it is they wish. So from that standpoint alone, it is important that we establish a