

process where the uniformity of regulations is represented in a central state agency, in this particular case the Department of Agriculture, wherein lies the greater body of knowledge of what is necessary for production agriculture in the State of Nebraska. I think that Senator Rogers explained in good detail the rest of the requirements of the bill. It gives us a framework for the implementation of FIFRA in Nebraska. It certainly will require, as the story unfolds in future years, I am sure more legislation to become more detailed in the method of implementation. But at this point in time, I believe that the committee amended version of LB 349 is what we need to do in this session of the Legislature. It does not disrupt the use of some customarily accepted pesticides, certainly atrazine, in the State of Nebraska which still have to be applied as per label restrictions and all of those things, addresses some immediate concerns on preemption, and provides the framework whereby to move into the future in the regulation of all types of economic poisons in Nebraska, and it also includes a method of generating the money to do this. I would encourage your adoption of the committee amendments and then the advancement of the bill. Thank you.

**SPEAKER BAACK:** Thank you, Senator Coordsen. Senator Rod Johnson, on the committee amendments.

**SENATOR R. JOHNSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. I'd rise, obviously, to support the committee amendments. I guess I would like briefly to touch upon what is the FIFRA program and what purpose would it serve for the State of Nebraska to adopt such a program. The focus, I think, of this particular program, in fact, any program that deals with our natural resources, is prevention. Prevention from contamination, I think that is what we have to keep our eye on that particular...particular word, I guess, because I think that is, in fact, what the FIFRA program, the Clean Water Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, CERCLA, all of those federally mandated programs or federally run programs are focusing more and more as we move forward in the twenty-first century on clean water. Whether you agree with that from a policy standpoint or not, that seems to be the standard by which EPA is basing a lot of their decisions upon. As I said, this program, as I see it, is designed for prevention of water contamination. Two-pronged attack, the first is the educational aspect, the education and certification of those farmers and commercial applicators that use restricted-use products in their day-to-day operations. Those people take training, they