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LB 719A

doesn't make sense to penalize this type industry because it's really needed in our state and so hopefully that this amendment and also the amendment that Senator Warner had talked about will be approved so that the compost issue is not part of the total solution. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Elmer.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would Senator Hefner yield to a couple of questions?

SENATOR HEFNER: Certainly.

SENATOR ELMER: Senator Hefner, I certainly understand the purpose of the amendment that we want to suspend the rules and consider. When we're talking about soil conditioners, there are many types and those that are from naturally occurring situations such as paunch manure, the chicken manure, the sludge from treatment plants from municipalities are certainly those types of things that you're trying to address, but there are others that are totally artificial in nature such as our materials that are sold to attract earthworms, materials that are supposed to be wetter than water for detergent purposes that will soak up such as, you know, soak water in faster, are those things separate or lumped together with what you are proposing?

SENATOR HEFNER: Senator Elmer, this amendment, if you'll look on page 1740, strikes the word "soil conditioner."

SENATOR ELMER: I see that, but in the definition of soil conditioner does it include those totally manufactured items that do not contain those natural ingredients?

SENATOR HEFNER: What our intent of this bill is to take care of the problem that may occur like when these big chicken companies sell their chicken manure...

SENATOR ELMER: I understand that and I support that.

SENATOR HEFNER: Or the hog producers sell the manure out of their pits. The definition now in soil conditioners and compost says that if it's manipulated, well, then it could come under the \$4.00 a ton tax.

SENATOR ELMER: I see.