

us that feel that Initiative 300 has a very detrimental impact and why. And we will be back next year with a bill that will look at some modifications in it, some ways that we perhaps can soften it, if not completely repeal it, so that we can make some headways in what I believe will be an enhancing our largest industry, which is agriculture. I have talked to several individuals about the work that is to come, one of them being our Agriculture Committee, and I'm sure it's no surprise to anybody, I was disappointed that after five hours of testimony that the Ag Committee did not even spend five minutes, even under the balcony, in discussing this. They just came out with six kills and one no vote and one supporting the amendment. And I think it deserves more time than that and I think the Agriculture Committee and some of its members anyway is willing to give it a little more time. And, with that, I would give just a few minutes to the Chairman of the Agriculture Committee, Senator Cap Dierks.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and Senator Hillman. I would like to take the opportunity to tell you I think Senator Hillman deserves an A for effort because she is trying very hard to present her views and I know she feels somewhat frustrated because of the action that the committee took. I will defend that action though because I'm not sure how long it should take to kill a bill, whether five minutes is too much or not, but that's not really the point. I think that the hearing was well done. I think we heard a lot of testimony. We were there from one-thirty till, I think, almost seven o'clock, and we heard everybody, I think, that wanted to come and testify. We tried to make those provisions by even reducing the time frame to three minutes on those toward the end of the day and they seemed to be happy with that because they all got to do their visiting and tell us how they felt. What I have agreed to do, as Chairman of the Ag Committee, and I think that this is something that I should do, is to provide a forum for Senator Hillman to tell of her problems and try to find some middle ground with those people who have been very active in support of Initiative 300. And I have visited with some of those people already and they've made the offer to come and visit with Senator Hillman wherever she would like to do that, and I would be willing to, of course, be the go-between and try to arrange these meetings, if that's what is necessary. And, with that, I will turn the microphone back to Senator Hillman.