

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 29, 1999 LB 822

of the livestock waste is just as safe as the application of commercial fertilizer. And at some point in time our NRDs do regulate the amount of fertilizer we can apply. They...we have to test our soil, and we have certain times of the year when we can apply commercial fertilizer. So in these areas where there's crop production along in these watershed areas, the application of livestock waste in the proper manner, as determined by DEQ, I believe is just as safe as the application of commercial fertilizer. Commercial fertilizer may not be as offensive to somebody's nose, but I think it's difficult to make a distinction between livestock waste and commercial...and commercial fertilizer as to the potential to damage that stream. And so, with that again, I will reiterate my opposition to this...to this amendment, but I would also tell you that I don't think you're going to have a wholesale happening of people locating facilities alongside these watershed areas and wanting to...wanting to apply their animal waste into these areas. So, from that standpoint, maybe this isn't a big amendment but I just don't want to start down this direction at this time because I think it makes very little difference whether you're applying animal waste or commercial fertilizer in this sort of a situation. If it's done properly, there should not be a risk and I think DEQ will...will, in the future, regulate properly as to the application of animal waste.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. Senator Dierks, you are next, followed by Schellpeper, Bohlke, Beutler, Schmitt.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Madam President and members of the Legislature. I'm going to support this amendment of Senator Beutler's. I'm sorry, Senator Schrock, I understand where you're coming from, but I have not come yet to the position that the agronomic rates that we're putting on out there by way of the irrigation systems, I have not come to a position yet that that's accurate. I need to have a lot more proof that we're not doing more damage with that than we are. And I don't doubt that we've overused commercial fertilizers. I think that's one of the reasons we have nitrate problems up in the Bazile Triangle. Took us 25 years to get to those problems. It's going to take us a lot longer to clean them up. But just because fertilizer companies are putting out rates, I don't think that equates that those fertilizer rates through agronomic distribution by way of