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LB 870

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Jones, you have approximately four minutes.

SENATOR JONES: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. Thank you, Senator Schrock. I just wanted to bring you up to a little date on what we did last year, and help that out a little bit. We made significant progress last year when we passed the Livestock Waste Management Act of 1209. This year, Senator Stan Schellpeper brought us to LB 870, a bill that clarifies and expands the work from last year. I also want to thank Senator Kremer for designating this as a priority bill. Before we consider the committee amendments, I wanted to mention the work done last year on LB 1209, Livestock Waste Management Task Force, which was appointed in the bill. The task force looked at five main issues: the inspection fee, the feasibility financial assurance requirement, the feasibility of the creation of a compensation fund against possible damages, and the best management practice for odor and the disposal of dead animals. The task force includes some recommendations for these five issues, and the Department of Environmental Quality offered their recommendations. I have copies of the study here if anybody wants to look at it, and I got a couple copies here on my desk. I think this is an important bill that we need to get passed this year, because I think it looks into the issues of the small operator, and protects the small operator, and the inspection of small...backgrounding operations and things like that that 1209 did not take into consideration last year. And so we don't want to hurt our small operators, so hopefully we can get this bill moved on. There's some changes made in this bill, and the committee amendments, they actually become the bill when it's all said and done. And I think Senator Schrock pretty well explained the committee amendments. So with that, I thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: The Chair of the Natural Resources Committee, Senator Schrock, you're recognized to open on the committee amendments.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. Speaker, in my opening I did address the committee amendments. It's a 21-page document. And I will not expand further at this...or, expound further at this time.