

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

May 3, 1999

LB 870

Sarpy County at Gretna. Somebody wanted to put in a measly 20-sow unit to do medical research and to supply some things to the Med Center; went through the process three times and was denied. There's great room for mischief in these kinds of things. Now I...all I'm saying is one size doesn't fit all, and there are many people out there that are going to want, perhaps even in the future, believe it or not, are going to want to start some fairly small or modest size units and we're making them jump through enormous hoops. There's no question in my mind with what we're doing and I never wanted to say that we shouldn't have clean water and clean air, but I think we're on the point of reacting in this state and the time's going to come that we're going to have no way to have livestock production in this state. This amendment fits everybody whether you're, maybe even under the present circumstances, a hundred head, let alone the ten thousand, and it certainly is going to affect three hundred and so and on up. And that is apparently we don't want livestock production in this state at all and we've gone for 150 years without serious contamination problems, in my mind, with small units spread all over this state. And I'm not saying the big ones haven't done some contribution, although, by and large, some of the big ones now are doing a pretty good job of controlling their pollution, and I'm not condemning what we've done so far. But now we want a blanket, make everyone jump through those hoops, and the margins are getting to the point that we're going to drive...I...it's going to become an oxymoron to have a small or medium size farm in this state and survive. It will not happen. And these overhead expenses and the margins, I guess we're going to force big units, and then it seems to be the mind-set across this state to force the big ones out of...I guess if you take a poll, say go away, livestock production units in this state. So I guess I think this is overkill at this point, unless there was something in there to...to set a size or scale. I...I'm not prepared to say what that ought to be, but I'm frustrated that we are turning into such an anti-livestock mentality as I see these and some other amendments. I admit what set me off on this is what's happened at Gretna. It's hard...it's just unbelievable to me that you can't raise 20 sows,...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.