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LB 870

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...put in a 20-sow unit, raises 150 to 200 pigs at a time a few times a year and we're saying "no". And what frustrated me as I read about the newspaper articles, it was an emotional response and I'm seeing that come across the state. So I admit I'm venting a little bit, I'm frustrated and perhaps this is the first amendment of several that are going to frustrate me, but it's only a matter of time that you're going to have 200 cows and you're going to be under control here. Just because we've exempted out confined cows at 90 days doesn't mean that that's going to be next. So I think one size doesn't fit all and I oppose this amendment.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, member of the body, members of the body. I selected this my priority bill because I think it's so important to our livestock industry in Nebraska. When 1209 was enacted last year I remember thinking right away that I believe this is going to hurt the small operations more than it is the large...the large operations, and I think 1209 probably was initiated because of the mega-corporation hog operations coming in. But I know right in my area there's been two operations that have decided to call it quits because it's just all the regulations they have to go through. The profitability is not there and the smallness of their operation made it so they didn't think they wanted to go ahead with still raising livestock. We also had another small operation that tried to build a confinement barn and they had to move it four different times before they found enough support or enough...or less opposition that...before they could get it put in just because of public sentiment rather than because of scientific evidence. I would be against this amendment. Right now, if we report...we make application to DEQ, then they notify the...the zoning commission in the county. At that time, they would see if all the regulations have been met. If we do not, if we make it a separate operation, it's going to drag it on for a lot longer and it's something that's not necessary. It would put the burden on the producer rather than on the...on the zoning commission to see that the regulations were all met. I think it's very important that we do have some guidelines so we know where we're going, so we know what will not contaminate our water, which will not be a problem with odor and as far as