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LB 870

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, not being in the best voice this morning, I'm still going to oppose Senator Beutler's amendment, but I hear his concerns and, Senator Beutler, I would be glad to sit down with you between now and Select File and try and address language that would appropriately address your concerns. I am not sure we can do that in this short period of time now, but the reason I oppose this amendment is because if they're required to use best management practices, it may not be practical in all cases, and I use the example where covering lagoons might be the best management practices, but it's not, maybe, an affordable way of doing business. It would drive the industry out of the state. So we thought we had good language here and, certainly, this doesn't allow livestock facilities to discharge waste into the waters of the state. But best management practices may not be achievable in every case. Maybe the best way to clean out the barn is with a pitchfork, but it's too labor intensive and we can't do that anymore. Maybe have to use a backhoe or something, I don't know, but I'm not ready to accept this language yet, but I certainly would pledge to sit down with you and DEQ and the industry and work out language on Select File. Certainly that invitation is open to you at all times and we would try and work this better and try and meet your concerns. So with that, I hope you're understanding of why I'm opposing this amendment. With that, I'd give the rest of my time back to the Chair.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Okay. I am sorry. Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I, too, rise to oppose this amendment and I think we're...we are talking about two different issues here; one is to meet all requirements in order to receive a permit, and the other is how to get to that position. The requirements have to be met, and I know Senator Beutler mentioned that if it's a suggestion maybe you'd say I am not going to do anything; I'm not going to take any of the suggestions. But the requirements are still there, and so if you dump waste into a stream or pollute the water, the underground water or anything in any way, you're not meeting the requirements and will not be able to get a permit, but you maybe say that the suggestions weren't