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LB 870

And again this year I introduced the bill that Senator Schellpeper incorporated into what is now LB 870 to give in Nebraska the federal EPA minimum standard of 300 animal units. It appeared that in the last 12 months most of the enforcement efforts have been directed at small operators who do not have the resources of the large ones. They don't have attorneys on retainer. They don't have staff attorneys, in the case of the really big multistate firms, that would protest and take to court inspections or decisions by our DEQ that they've concentrated on the mid-level producers who were trying to do the best they could. And so currently, unless we pass LB 870 and, as I said, the Beutler amendments are not going to hurt that effort at all, we have a situation in Nebraska where, quite frankly, the law requires a person in 4-H who has a bandy hen in confinement to pay a \$30 inspection fee and a 3...a \$30 permit fee and a \$300 inspection fee. Now that's not enforced to that extent, but that is in fact what the law provides without the federal minimum standard. So I do rise to support both the Beutler amendment and, hopefully with no further amendments of any significant nature, LB 870, bearing in mind that Nebraska is the fourth largest dollar volume producer of food of the 50...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR COORDSEN: ...states and we have saw fit through many programs that have been...been implemented here by the Legislature to impact that big industry with more regulations, more hamstringing and more taxes than any other state in the Union, certainly not the major producer states who are in the business that we are of feeding people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Suttle.

SENATOR SUTTLE: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I rise to support Senator Beutler's amendment. I'm not thoroughly happy about it, but I will support it. Senator Wehrbein gave out a statistics on the Omaha sewer overflow. I think it's appalling, I think it's terrible. I have known about it for a long time and I agree with Senator Wehrbein, it is...it's a health hazard beyond belief. I think that Omaha needs to build a larger sewer treatment facility so that these kind of things do not continue. In number five of