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but when you get into the mega productions we need to put more restrictions on them and I still don't believe we're doing that. I want to protect the family farms. I have always wanted to protect the family farms. But I am going to support this amendment. I think it's a step in the right direction, but I don't think it addresses what the problem is. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Beutler, you're recognized to close on the amendment.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I think the amendment has been fairly thoroughly discussed and I appreciate the discussion. Again, I guess the central point is that these amendments are basically refining amendments. They do not dilute in any serious sense the fundamental and important factor or the fundamental and important provision of this bill, which is to exempt the 300 animal unit and lower operations from regulation totally. And I would repeat that the best evidence that we have, based on the numbers that DEQ has, is that we are exempting approximately 70 percent, 70 percent of operators from the regulation. And I understand that in some areas, Senator Kremer's for example, it wouldn't be 70 percent, but we know from the applications coming in that that's...that's about what it is. Of the 20,000 operators in this state, there will only be about 3,000 of them regulated in the end. And I don't know, I wanted to just make a quick comment or addendum to Senator Janssen's comments with respect to all the waste going into the stream system one way or another. I guess I would suggest that hopefully that's not...that's not always true; that part of what we're trying to do here in regulating these livestock operations is to be sure that the waste is spread at agronomic rates on the landscape, on the fields, so that the nutrients that are in the waste are absorbed by the new crops and do not end up in the waterways. And I think...I think that is happening to a large extent and that's what we...that's what we want to happen. He's absolutely correct though in the sense that an untimely rain event or other factors can result in a portion, and sometimes too large a portion of it, going into the waterways. The situation in Omaha with regard to their need to renovate their complete water and sewer system to avoid the overflows into the Missouri River will eventually come to a head, and I think Senator Wehrbein is correct in identifying that as one of our