

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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LB 870

this morning, you want to withdraw all of those except for AM1623, which is the one you gave me this morning.

SENATOR BEUTLER: That's right, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Beutler would offer AM1623 to the committee amendments. (AM1623, Legislative Journal page 1853.)

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Beutler, you're recognized to open.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, just to inform you of the process, at least insofar as that process has been...that I've been involved in discussions of the process. This will be the last and only further amendment that will come from me or anybody involved in the process that took place, and this is a discussion that I wanted to have with you today and that I hope you will take seriously, and that I hope you will give me some feedback on, whether it's highly negative or positive. But this particular amendment, which is on your machine, basically suggests, to give you the gist of it to begin with, that there should be an annual operating fee to pay for the ongoing regulation of the livestock waste facilities. And you can see in the amendment or on the chart that's being passed out to you that it's suggested that the fee be \$20 for class I operations above 300, that it be \$40 for class II operations, \$400 for class III operations, and \$2,000 for class IV operations. Why am I suggesting this? I'm suggesting it because one of the...because, one, the general financing agreement that was a part of the negotiations last year and because, as a matter of philosophy, whether you're talking about farming operations or any kind of production, any kind of manufacturing, any kind of operation that requires an environmental regulation program in order to...to control the effect on the environment, that that particular industry ought to pay all or at least a substantial part of the cost of the program. And whether you're talking about the area of pollution or just regulation generally, regulation that's necessary to prevent fraud or to prevent unwarranted dangerous practices in any industry, almost all the time, as a matter of practice, we charge back the cost of that regulation to the industry being regulated. If you look, for example, at the Department of Banking's budget or at the Department of Insurance budget, all