

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

May 5, 1999

LB 870

penalty, although certainly some people see any kind of fee or tax or assessment as a punishment, as a penalty. That's not the intent and I think Senator Beutler clearly stated how there's incentive that's there when you pay a fee to make sure that there's more attention put on not creating a problem, and there's more focus on prevention. And I think prevention is the key, whether it's in personal health and well-being, whether it's in juvenile delinquency prevention. No matter what we look at, prevention is much more cost effective and a better approach to take. When we have some fees there, it certainly adds the incentive to not create a problem, to keep those costs low, to keep them from raising, and so that's a part of this equation that Senator Beutler was talking about that makes it important that we don't just do all General Fund financing to provide for the cost of the program. That's a component that I think especially needs to be considered as we look at this amendment. I appreciate my colleagues' time in looking at this. I think the whole issue is one that, although some people can easily detach from, this is a statewide issue. It's not just an urban or a rural issue. What happens in various parts of the state affect various other parts of the state. We have many of the folks in the rural areas very concerned about this issue, and that is something that affects us no matter where we are in the state. I know that there are constituents that I have that are equally concerned as those rural residents who also want to maintain a good quality of water and are concerned about what may contaminate their drinking water. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Preister. Senator Dickey, on the Beutler amendment to the committee amendments to LB 870.

SENATOR DICKEY: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I rise to speak in opposition of this amendment. I was not here when LB 1209 was passed, but LB 1209 Task Force recommended that we have no additional fees for additional inspections or operating fees. As a producer, this amendment is close to my heart. We don't need any more costs as we produce livestock in this state. This state needs the livestock sector. Nebraska is the third largest producing corn state in the nation. The best market is the livestock sector in the state of Nebraska. I would...we really, I feel, need a viable agriculture industry