

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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LB 870

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Preister, on the advancement of LB 870.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Honorable President. I am rising to support the advancement of the bill. I do want to make a couple of comments. I remain concerned about the issue, and I think each of us should no matter where we live for a variety of reasons. What I wanted to do is give a brief explanation of the handout that should be on your desk, that's from the North Carolina News Observer. It talks in there about a 20-year study that has been done in North Carolina and it deals with the issue of rain falling from the sky that has dramatically increased in the amount of the ammonia that is contained in that rain. The researcher there says that it's directly attributable or that there's a correlation from that from the growth of the hog industry and, basically, we're talking about the extremely large confinement facilities. So we have some research that's going on here when we're frequently asked about having good sound science and, quite frankly, at times I get tired of hearing that because when sound science is cited it's frequently discounted anyway. But there's some research that in North Carolina, where they have a far greater problem, that the ammonia that is coming from, being emitted from, the lagoons is falling back in excessive levels and is creating problems. That's a concern because we frequently hear that odor is merely a nuisance. Odor is not always just a nuisance and does have many compounds, and those compounds can create very dramatic health effects, both in terms of breathing as well as those compounds then falling on the land and in the water. It's because of that concern for...from the rural community, in particular for the very large confinement areas, that a coalition has been formed. And this is a coalition of largely rural residents who have formed because they're concerned about that kind of ammonia and other contaminants that they're dealing with in the odor as well as in other areas. There's a monthly meeting of this group in Grand Island. It's a coalition composed of Mid-Nebraska Pride, the Center for Rural Affairs, WIFE or Women Involved in Farm Economics, SORR, or Save Our Rural Resources, which is in Perkins County. There's the Citizens for Air Resource and Environment, the CARE group that's in Senator Jones' District, I