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LB 556

alphanumeric system in whatever county you live. There are 5,042 farm vehicles and trailers registered and licensed; in Douglas there are about 854, in Lancaster County there is 3,302, and in Sarpy about 886; and the total number of farm vehicles registered, by the way, is about 150,195. Currently, there are 23 numbers suggested to be used. Those...I mean, letters to be used. Those letters not included would be O, I, and Q. Obviously, the reason is they would be hard, in some cases, when the plate is dirty or damaged, to determine and identify those particular letters. But this alphabetical numerical combination could produce 12,167,000 plates, more than adequate to meet the needs. We would like to suggest that we have some concerns with people who live in the three mandated counties--Douglas, Sarpy and Lancaster County. But for those that have a plate that they would like to keep with a particular letter or number, they can, under this bill, but they would have to pay that 20 or 30, whatever that dollar amount was for the prestige plate. It would be voluntary if any other county might want to use this system. We know that across the state some of the counties feel very protective, not necessarily jealous, but concerned that they should lose the identity they associate with their license number. But to be completely frank, it is not that important that this particular proposal be statewide and, as a result of that, the savings that we estimate could, in fact, result in the three counties would be considerable. It's been endorsed by the people who administer the programs in those counties, and I appreciate that very much. I...we estimate, in fact, that in Douglas, Lancaster, and Sarpy Counties the savings, not only in personnel costs, but in storage, would amount to as much as \$856,000 a year. I've got a breakdown for anybody that might be interested. I'm not going to bore you with more information than you may need. But for those that need it, I'll be glad to try to provide it. I have a list of the 42 counties that now have an alphanumeric system, and I think in almost every case it's statewide. We don't intend to do this. I don't intend to change it either, unless some of you from outside the three counties would request that that be done. But I don't think that will happen. I think it's a good idea. I think it's a...it's an idea that...whose time has come. And given the extraordinary costs that apply in those three counties affected by this bill, as I hopefully have demonstrated to you, I would hope you would support this amendment to 556. And I want to