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we need to have an opportunity for them to...another alternative really, and the alternative is composting. And currently composting is available for the poultry industry, but it's not something that is in statute for the rest of the livestock industry. So the amendment that we have has two main parts. The first part is a definition of poultry and the second part is the part that says that...allows for the composting to take place up to 300 pounds of livestock. And this is done, this is...composting is done in this amendment at the same directive that we use for the American Veterinary Medical Association and is present in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association. Volume 210, No. 8 which was actually printed I believe in April of 1997. And it allows for any person incorporating livestock carcass into a composting facility shall follow the operating procedures as set forth in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association. Not less than one copy of such journal or portion thereof shall be filed for use and examination by the public in the offices of the Clerk of the Legislature and the Secretary of State. That is what the amendment does or what it says. It actually provides an alternative to burning or burying. Currently the animals that die in this state can be either rendered, burned or buried. This is a composting option. It's the understanding that the Nebraska Department of Agriculture is planning to review their general powers statutes which includes animal disposition and that will be taking place this next year as I understand it. So they then will come up with procedures for us to do this. That again will have to be...will have to come through the Legislature, but this is really kind of a band-aid approach for producers to allow them until statutory language can be present next year. I want to make sure that you understand that it defines poultry to make it clear that nothing is changing the ability of the chicken and turkey producers to do their composting. This just allows animals up to 300 pounds. I'd be glad to answer any questions that anyone would have.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Discussion on the Dierks amendment. Senator Schrock, you are recognized, followed by Senators Jones, Hilgert, Janssen, Wehrbein and Beutler.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Madam President, members of the Legislature, I rise to support the Dierks amendment. We did discuss this issue