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LB 870

you are next.

SENATOR HILGERT: Thank you, Madam President, members. I rise, Senator Dierks, I brought up this issue when we were discussing about this in committee and I'm certainly in favor of what you're trying to do here and I'm supportive of the amendment. But something I'd like to get on the record and maybe have your opinion on a little bit is that issue I brought up on line 10 of page 2, 10, 11, and 12, it says: Any animal which dies of disease or is found dead, so any animal which is found dead, shall be presumed to have died from and on account of an infectious, contagious, or otherwise transmittable disease. Now let's, for example, take anthrax because I believe that would fall into that category of infectious, contagious or otherwise transmittable disease and certainly is deadly, can be. So there's a presumption right now in Nebraska law that any critter found down had died from an infectious disease. Now the requirement for an infectious disease is either, what, bury four feet or burn, all within 36 hours. With your amendment, as far as the composting goes, does that do away with that presumption? Or what rebuts that presumption? Do they call a veterinarian, "Cap" Dierks, out to take a look at the downed animal or can they just take a look at it and say, well, I don't think this is an infectious disease? And if you can talk about that a little bit because I kind of see these two sections as in conflict. I brought that up earlier. Again, I'm not against what you're trying to do, but I'd like you to address it if you could, Senator Dierks, if you'd yield.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Senator Dierks, would you yield?

SENATOR DIERKS: Yes. Thank you, Madam President. Senator Hilgert, there are a number of different, well, thousands of bacteria and viruses that cause infectious disease and some that don't. Anthrax is one of those extremely difficult diseases to control. The disease, when you contract anthrax, you don't survive. It's about like rabies, you die with it. The anthrax organism itself forms a spore and it will survive for I guess maybe millions of years. We don't know for sure, but it's survived for all the time that anybody knows about it in anthrax districts across the country. There are several in the state, anthrax districts in Boyd County, all of the western, I think