

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

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LB 870

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. I understand there is an amendment on the desk, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Senator Beutler would move to amend, Madam President. (FA234, Legislative Journal pages 2178-2179.)

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Senator Beutler, would you like to open on your amendment?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yeah, just to defend myself a little bit here. My weekend consisted mostly of traveling around airports for about 24 hours, trying to find a way home from Chicago. It wasn't anything more interesting than that, really. (Laughter) I had indicated to Senator Schrock that...that I appreciated the changes that were being made. I thought that the changes at least made portions of the bill much more understandable, at least from my perspective, and I think from the perspective of anyone who would be reading and trying to interpret and to use the bill. There are a couple of things in this bill that I think are very important questions to the livestock industry. And one of those questions, I think, is probably pretty fairly and generally agreed upon, and that is the concept of exempting out the operations of 300 animal units or less. I think everybody generally feels that certainly these operations are not the main part of the problem by any means, and that even though there might be a marginal operation out there, here and there, that one would think should be regulated from time to time, the vast majority, 90, 95, 99 percent, you would...you would...nobody would ever want to regulate. And, in any event, it's going to be a long time before we get the balance just right with all of the big operations, starting from the top down, that we certainly don't need to worry about the small operations right now, if ever. The other part of the bill that's much more troublesome, from my perspective, and I have to say it's a tough one for the industry to handle, too, from the other side, and that is the question of what expectations you should have of all of those existing livestock operations out there, especially the big ones, who may have existed for the last 20 years, 15 years, 10 years, or maybe as little as 2 or 3 years. Because the definition for existing in this bill refers to operations that have existed, that were in existence