

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

May 17, 1999

LB 870

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Senator Schmitt, your light is next.

SENATOR SCHMITT: Yes, Madam President, members. I wasn't going to get involved in this, but I decided maybe I would after listing to Senator Schrock and Senator Beutler a little bit. I've been out to several of these facilities, and I think what Senator Schrock said here as far as the cattle waste facilities, I've got several of those in my area, I've got one pretty large confinement in my district. And I've got several others that are just open lot confinements. I've got one that's been turned in several times because of the pollution that is created. I think DEQ has checked it, the NRDs have checked it. I think it's even been in court. And I think all of the findings on it was that it was running up to standard, it really wasn't causing any pollution as far as the water. Again as Senator Schrock mentioned, I think maybe it was more odor and dust probably coming off of this than it was the actual waste. But I think one of the concerns there is, and this has probably been my concern more than anything, is the confinements and the lagoons that are being built, being used, then they're being pumped, and then these that are not lined with the vinyl or plastic, rubber, whatever they line some of them with, and I think Senator Jones has got some of them out there at his ranch that are lined, but the ones that are not, once they're pumped down, they have a tendency then to dry out in the upper part of them. And if this cracks then I think the concern comes in as to the leakage into the ground water, not so much the surface water. But I think that is a concern. And I don't know if DEQ has the man or woman power to go out and check these all the time as they've been pumped down. And so I think this is a concern. But as far as the cattle ones, if they break out, yes, you're going to see it. And if they break out in a lot of those instances, if they're far enough away from a running stream, you can probably dilute this with a lot of water, and it's not going to create too much of a problem. But if it leaches into the ground water, then I think we got problems. And I think this is where the concern is. But, with that, I'm going to qu't talking on this. I'm going to give my time to Senator Schrock, if he wants to continue what he was discussing there and see what everybody has got to say. Thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Senator Schrock.