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LB 822, 870

Quality. And it is the Department of Environmental Quality who would have the final oversight, who would also be doing the inspecting and who the public would like to have direct input to beyond mailing in written comments at a public comment period. I would ask for your careful consideration, ask that you please look at this as an opportunity to support those folks in rural Nebraska who would like to see this adopted as part of LB 870. Thank you very much for your time.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Preister. For discussion on the Preister amendment to LB 870, Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the Legislature, I rise to oppose the Preister amendment. Certainly this is a discussion we had in committee and it was turned down in committee. LB 822 is a bill that we passed this morning on Final Reading. I assume it's going to be signed. On that bill is the interim zoning amendment that was crafted by the Government Committee. If you're going to build a livestock facility in the state of Nebraska and you're going to build in a county that's zoned or you're going to build in a county that has interim zoning, has adopted those regulations, you're going to have a hearing. If you want to build a livestock facility in the state, how many hearings should we have? And is it the function of the DEQ to come out there and take their time and have that hearing? You'll have to draw the judgment on that. Earlier this year I went out to inspect a livestock facility in Arthur County and, believe you me, I'm not an expert. I don't know what to look for, but it looked to me like construction was going in an orderly manner. But when word got out that Senator Jones and I and, who else accompanied me there, Senator Pederson and Senator Cudaback, we had a lot of people there from 100 miles away. And I'm sure if you're going to have a public hearing on a large hog facility, you're going to have a hearing in front of the county. And if you have interim zoning, and we have come to the conclusion I believe on this floor, that if a county hasn't adopted zoning or is not in the process of adopting zoning I think we've come to the conclusion that it's time to quit feeling sorry for these people if they want to use that regulation to regulate new livestock facilities or expanded livestock facilities. We have included in LB 870 a public comment period. You can write, e-mail, correspond, do anything