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LB 870

extension to May 1 of 1999 by DEQ. They are still operating in noncompliance. This is May 18. The rest of the story is DEQ is not doing anything with the large operations. That was the issue with the zoning a year ago. Had this body listened to what was being said on the floor by a few of us, we would have put the interim zoning in a year ago. The large confinements would not have been in my area. We would not be dealing with the issue today. Interim zoning today is too late. Restrictions need to be put on the large confinements, not on the small ones. I don't have a problem with the small ones. I don't really have a lot of problem with the open lot cattle yards or even the confined cattle yards. I don't know that they've been a problem. Why is not DEQ put in monitoring water wells next to these large hog facilities the same as they do with the waste facilities of your communities? Isn't it cheaper to prevent something than clean something up after it has contaminated the underground water?

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMITT: I believe that it is. That's the rest of the story. I believe that Senator Preister's amendment deals with the large ones, the Class III, the Class IV. Let's make the large one jump through the hoops and do what they're supposed to and leave the small ones alone. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Schmitt. On the Preister amendment to LB 870, Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, I, too, stand in support of Senator Preister's amendment. The question I have is what is the harm in the amendment? What harm does it do? What harm is there in asking DEQ to respond to some problems that local residents have? I don't understand why we would object to this amendment. It hurts no one and it may help a whole bunch of people. It just provides for us to understand and for the rest of the ag industry to understand that one size doesn't fit all and that's a lot of times what we do here. We try to make...DEQ has done that with their approach to this whole process with one size fits all. Sure, we've designated Class I, II, III and IV; but the permits that they send out and the questions they send out