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LB 870

and the answers they get are all the same. Yet we've seen so many times when those questions are answered inadequately. And we've seen so many times when the questions that neighbors have are not answered at all. This process today would allow that to happen. I am sorry, I don't accept the philosophy that we've got to quit feeling sorry for our constituents because they haven't done zoning. There are people out there that ten years from now unless some corporate hog guy comes in there to put a plant in across the road from them, they won't have zoning. It doesn't become an issue until it's a problem, and for us to force that down their throat I think is less than honorable. You know, and with this amendment hearings are not automatic. They have to be requested so it isn't something that we're putting in statute that everyone has to have the hearing or gets one. Those of you who have zoning in place I think you ought to take yourself out of the voting here because you've got it already the way you need it. But we have people that don't have zoning in place, and we have people that are hurting and they want to have an opportunity to discuss the issue and they don't get that opportunity. We talk about it on the phone, but that doesn't get the opportunity over to DEQ. I do support this amendment. And if this one doesn't pass, I'll support Senator Bohlke's amendment because I do think that that's part of our process. I think we should allow public comment. I think it should come at the request of the citizens in the area that need to have that comment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Dierks. The speaking list on the Preister amendment to LB 870 is Senator Bohlke followed by Senators Kremer, Bruning, Bromm, Jones, Schrock, Beutler and Schmitt. Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Thank you, Mr. President and members. This particular issue with LB 870 has been one that I have had an interest in, something that has throughout the session I found unable to understand the lobby's objection other than the fact that it's going to cause DEQ some possible discomfort and time and energy to go out and hold a public hearing. When we first started into this, I said to people, what is government? What responsibility does government have to the constituents of this state? In a representative government if they oppose something, they're supposed to have, I believe, the opportunity to come in