

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

May 18, 1999

LB 870

present. But I'm going to oppose Senator Bohlke's amendment here. I really think that with the zoning and the interim zoning now that's possible that the local people are the people to conduct the hearings, and they're going to be more accountable and know the local folks...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR BAKER: ...as opposed to outside people. So I would think what we're doing in LB 870 is adequate...in fact, more than adequate...and I would support the bill, but would not support the amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I'm sorry, Senator Bohlke, but I'm going to oppose your motion. I will say that the task force, the LB 1209 Task Force, and I hold the study in my hand, did not make recommendations as to whether...and you did clarify that up...as to whether we should have public hearings or not. An interesting fact here, this issue...we'd not be talking about this issue if it wasn't for hogs. Cattle probably isn't the reason we're here today talking about this issue. One of the things we're finding out is that a lot of the hog facilities are going to Class II operations. That means they'll go to 12,400 head. That means they'll be a Class II instead of a Class III or a Class IV. And even under your amendment, I believe, Senator Bohlke, there wouldn't be a public hearing on a Class II. I don't know if that's relevant or not, but where do you draw the line? Some of them are purposely, I guess, staying out of the Class III and IV category, and that's fine. I think they're probably better able to handle the waste if they're not such a large facility. But be that as it may, I did support interim zoning. Senator Schmitt, I did support interim zoning last year; I supported you all the way on that. It was in the minority last year. They brought it back this year. They thought it was a good idea. So maybe you and I were right last year and the rest of them saw the light. Maybe next year we'll see the light and go with public hearings. But I think it should be said that DEQ very seldom holds public hearings on issues of facilities when it comes to discharging into this state. Solid waste is an issue