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LB 870

North Carolina that has been collecting air samples. And they've been collecting these samples in areas where they're right in the middle of the hog belt. In 1985, the rain started to change in that area, and by 1996, the amount of ammonia falling in rain had more than doubled. Is it emotion that the ammonia had doubled in the rainfall, or is that scientific data? For some researchers, such as Viney Aneja, it is no coincidence that this surge in ammonia in rainfall came as industrial hog farms multiplied across eastern North Carolina, wafting up tons of ammonia each year from their barns and waste lagoons. There's no other possible source, he said. These aren't emotions that people are concerned about. This is factual information that continually is put down as either bad science or simply...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR PREISTER: ...emotion to discount it. Folks want to have an opportunity. And some of us might be surprised at how inventive citizens are in doing their homework, in doing their research, and coming up with good, sound science, good data. And they aren't just presenting emotion. They are presenting information. And I think that the public should certainly have a right to express that and to have an opportunity for a public hearing, particularly in the cases where Senator Bohlke's amendment applies, where there is no zoning and no zoning ordinance. I think that amounts to approximately 20 current counties. And at a minimum, I think this is something that we should be able to do for those folks. I would hope that more than 14 people, more than 13 people, would agree with Senator Bohlke and I on this. Thank you very much.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Stuhr, followed by Senator Jones, Wehrbein, and Vrtiska.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature. I have been listening very intently this afternoon and just want to add that we did actually spend many hours in the Natural Resources Committee talking about this issue. One point that I just...several points that I'd like to bring out is that we did pass LB 822 this morning with an emergency clause, which then should provide counties that are not zoned right now