

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

March 10, 2000 LB 900, 957

CLERK: The next amendment, Madam President, Senator Dierks, AM2676. (AM2676, Legislative Journal page 930.)

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Madam President, members of the Legislature. This amendment, which appears on 930 of your Journal, would make three changes to the bill. First, the amendment adds a representative of the Nebraska Energy Office to the Carbon Sequestration Advisory Committee created by the bill. The Nebraska Energy Office works with and through the U.S. Department of Energy and we believe would bring additional expertise to the task assigned to the committee and serve as a conduit for federal funds which may be available through the Department of Energy for the purposes of this bill. Secondly, we include a technical amendment in Section 2 of the amendment to confirm the bill...to conform the bill with LB 900. The bill, in its original form, provided that the Carbon Sequestration Advisory Committee would be housed in the Natural Resources Commission for administrative purposes. The amendment provides that the Director of Natural Resources shall provide administrative and operational support, and that the Natural Resources Commission may advise the committee on the performance of its duties. And, finally, the amendment adds language addressing the matter Senator Hilgert brought up on General File. Section 3 of the bill enumerates the duties of the Carbon Sequestration Committee. Among these is subsection (2) where the committee is asked to recommend policies or programs to enhance the ability of producers to participate in carbon trading systems. The amendment adds language that such recommendations shall include policies and programs to optimize economic benefits to ag producers, including the potential of creating or utilizing nonprofit entities to serve as intermediaries on behalf of producers. The concerns pointed out by Senator Hilgert was that much of the potential economic benefit to producers may be absorbed in transaction costs charged by intermediaries who serve as agents for sellers and buyers of carbon credits. This concern was not unanticipated when we first drafted the bill and we had anticipated this would be addressed in the recommendation to the committee. The amendment, however, makes the objective explicit to the committee. I would ask the body to adopt this AM2676 and to