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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Senator Landis. That would be plenty. I tend to agree with Senator Landis. To try and demonstrate that "functional" phrase in the amendment, I'd liken it to somebody walking out their back door who was going to walk across their farm site and check irrigation water right there at contiguous land, as opposed to somebody who wants to run...come out and live with nature, as Senator Landis describes it, steps out their back door, has a few acres there, and goes to work in Omaha or Lincoln or wherever. And they're not going to go out and check irrigation water or check a cow having a calf, something like that. And that's what I believe is going to be the determining factor when they interpret this "functional," as to whether it is in fact part of a working farm, or whether it is an acreage. And I believe this is as simple as we can make it. As Senator Landis pointed out, the assessors for the most part are just ignoring this. And it was a problem waiting to crop up.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Baker. (Visitors introduced.) On with discussion of AM0104, Senator Stuthman.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the board. In relation to this, what takes place in our county is...and I don't know if this is defined for our assessors to do, utilize, or if that's the direction they're supposed to give, is, an acreage is defined by, ten acres or less, could be a farmstead, may not be a farmstead. And the reason I'm saying may not be a farmstead is, we've got individuals that buy 40 acres. We don't have planning and zoning. They subdivide it into ten-acre plots. Those ten-acre plots are valued at a lot higher price than the farm ground right aside of it, just because they're an acreage. They're still farmed. There's no line, there's no fence, nothing. They're still farmed. Those are valued that way. The acreage on what we consider a farm site, or the farm, or part of a continuing farm, even if it's not lived in by that individual farmer, it's still valued the