

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

January 31, 2003 LB 93

applied. This not only regulates the timing, but it regulates the amount that can be applied. The original bill had the word "pesticide" in it. They could regulate pesticides also. The pesticide regulation in the state of Nebraska is left up to our federal FIFRA regulations and it is implemented by the Department of Agriculture. It is not implemented by the NRDs and, certainly, the agricultural groups that testified in opposition to this bill, that was their objections. That part of...the pesticide portion of this bill has been removed. We are only dealing with the application of fertilizer. And, you know, it's not only nitrogen. It could be also phosphates. A lot of times if you have piece...a tract of land that they are spreading a lot of livestock waste on, to you city folks that's manure, they can be very high in phosphates. So if that becomes a problem, they can regulate any fertilizer. We think we have taken the ag community's objections to this bill out of the bill. We do have an amendment and that amendment does strike "pesticide." So I hope I've explained the bill. Please, if you're interested to see how big an area the ground...the Phase IV management area is, I do have that map. I did not make copies, but there is a little bit of an area in Merrick County, and a few isolated spots in Hall and Buffalo County, and maybe one spot, maybe one quarter of land in Platte County. If you would like to see this map, come back and take a look. We're not talking about a very large area of land, but as you know, high nitrates in our water is not desirable and we don't want the overapplication of nitrogen or any other fertilizer to take place when it's not necessary. Thank you. That concludes my opening remarks. If you have any questions, I would be glad to answer.

SENATOR ENGEL: Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, I do have an amendment from the Natural Resources Committee. That amendment is AM0049. (Legislative Journal page 303.)

SENATOR ENGEL: Senator Schrock, you're recognized to open on your amendment.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, the