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FLOOR DEBATE

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today that I'm bringing you are DEQ, Department of Environmental Quality, bills. The second and third bill was brought to us by DEQ, but this was brought to us by the people that install septic tanks. This was not brought to us by DEQ. And the amendments, actually what they want to do is create a standard for installing septic tanks, to protect our water well systems in the state of Nebraska from contamination. And right now there is no standards, there is no license. You don't have to have a license to install septic tanks. And shortcuts can be taken, and sometimes that can result in contamination of water wells or bodies of water. So they want a standard, so that when you're installing a septic tank outside of a city limits there's a standard. And it will protect our resources, and it will make it so a fly-by-night type of person can't underbid them with something that isn't engineered properly. The committee amendment would exempt public power and irrigation districts from the provision, because they have their own engineers, they have their own standards, and they've already been doing what needs to be done. So basically, that's all the committee amendment does, is exempt public power districts.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. We will now continue on with discussion on the Natural Resources Committee amendments to LB 94. Senator Stuthman.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Mr. Chair, and body...and members of body, I have a little bit of a concern with this bill, with the amendment. Is there going to be ever anything that is going to be talked about as far as our water waste from our livestock feeding facilities? We're...the emphasis right now on this is from wastewater, septic tanks, and housing districts, and the such. But is this going to relate to the pits, the lagoons, the wastewater storage facilities that are out on our farms for the livestock feeding facilities? Is this going to create any kind of a problem down the road that it is also included in this? Is there going to be...have to be a permitting process, where I'm going to have to be permitted and licensed to haul this out onto my...the livestock nutrients, out onto my property for fertilization of my crops? Is something like this going to be happening because what we're doing right now? That is kind of the question I have, and I would like to ask that question of