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LB 754

was all along as we worked on this bill. So I just ask the body to support the amendment and I'll talk later about the other aspects of my involvement in this bill. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Burling. Senator Bromm, was a minute left. Did you care to use that minute? You've heard the opening on AM1188 to the committee amendment, AM0912, to LB 754. We're now open for discussion on AM1188. Senator Wehrbein, followed by Senators Chambers, Bromm, Burling, Erdman, Beutler, Kremer, and Baker. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Mr. President, members of the body, thank you, and I rise to support Senator Bromm's amendment and the committee amendments and just to make some general comments in general, I...or general comments specifically on the need I believe for this bill. I recognize, via the e-mails and some comments that I've received, that there is some resistance to this in the country and a belief that we are stepping on local zoning regulations and the right for local entities to make decisions. I believe this compromise is very reasonable in trying to allay some of those fears. But beyond that, I think we need to recognize the fact that there are factors beyond the forces that many and the letters are talking about that are causing some problems in the livestock industry across the state and actually across the country, and I recognize those. Many of us don't like the extremely large operations that are apparently coming in or are being resisted in many parts of the state, but I think we're going to have to come face to face the fact that economics are ruling in many of these cases. I don't know that we necessarily have to have extremely large operations to be profitable, but those trends are in position. Those trends are going on and we're going to have to figure out a way to keep livestock profitable in this state and a way to utilize the infrastructure that has been invested in this state. So I think we're going to have to try to find a balance, and hopefully this is one way that we can find that balance and it will encourage young people to take up this business in the future. There is a lot of discouragement. I've talked to several groups in just the last few days. There is a lot of discouragement out there. Part of it has to do with the agriculture economy, but part of it is they just don't see a future. There's got to be a future