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Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 7, 2003

LB 754

Burling, on AM1188.

SENATOR BURLING: Thank you, Mr. President. And again, as I said awhile ago, I rise to support the amendment, but I also want to give a little bit of my perspective on why I prioritized the bill and maybe answer some questions that other people might have. Over the years, as we have looked at national trends and national rankings, Nebraska has always been one, two or three in various brackets of livestock production, and as we went on about our busy lives and our business we begin to see livestock numbers in Nebraska decrease, and this got the attention of a few of us and we began to inquire around as to what was actually going on. We have a Livestock Waste Management Act in the state of Nebraska. This bill does not address that at all. Even if it maybe should, it does not. That's another time and another place if we want to address that. It's been said that a decrease in livestock numbers are a matter of the economy. It's true that economics does have a great deal to say about trends like this, but when we see livestock numbers rise in some other states, then we know that it's not all dealing with the economy. And so some of us began to receive some reports from various counties around the state, and it appeared that some counties were doing quite well working with the livestock entrepreneurs and working together to...trying to increase their economic growth and broaden their tax base in their areas and increase employment, and other counties were having difficulties working with the livestock people. And so we took a look at this and thought what can be done on the state level to coordinate some things so that all counties that desire to grow economically in the livestock business receive some help, and so that's part of the reason that we introduced this bill. Having the population scarcity that Nebraska has as far as people is concerned, seemed like a good state to try to make sure that at least the state of Nebraska had policy that encouraged livestock production in a state such as this, and it seemed that the decrease in numbers of livestock was the wrong direction to go. You know, we have provided tax credits for businesses through bills like LB 775. We've provided incentives for ethanol plants. Ethanol is value added to grain production. Ethanol plants eat corn; livestock eats corn. And we need to promote, I think, livestock, as well as these other businesses and here was an opportunity in LB 754