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LB 754

back to the committee hearing that we had on LB 754, it was probably no different in some ways than the hearing we had last year on LB 1285. Ironically, the people that came and testified in opposition to LB 754 said that they liked LB 1285 a lot better last year than what they like this one this year, but the reality is that we still have a problem. Had we addressed some of these issues in the study that was proposed last year, we probably would have had a lot more cohesive thought going forward than what we did at the committee hearing. But regardless of that, we still have a problem. There are some things that we in Nebraska are not going to solve. We're not going to solve the price of cattle. We're not going to solve the price of pigs. We're not going to solve the price of corn, soybeans, wheat, a number of those other factors. We can solve some other problems though, and I think that there is an opportunity for us to do some of that with LB 754. Regardless of whether you like the zoning or the county designation or not, I think we can work through that. I think the committee has worked very diligently on this of bringing both those in opposition to the bill in to discuss the amendments and actually work to draft these amendments, as well as the committee counsel and other individuals that were interested in trying to come up with a solution. I think the key point that we bring forth is that Senator Kremer, Senator Bromm, Senator Burling, myself, we support the opportunity for counties to zone. There would not be that...that would not be taken away even if LB 754 had passed in its original form, because counties can still zone and say they don't want any livestock at all. That is still their right. They can still do that. The question is, what is the process that needs to be put in place when an individual applies to get a special condition...or a special use permit, what should that look like and what facts should be used to determine whether or not they're eligible to receive that permit? I think we can point to some areas that have some expertise. Obviously, we have one side of the equation, which is the county zoning. They have set up guidelines, set back standards that must be met and must be considered and complied with before an individual can get the approval of the county. Contingent upon that is always the DEQ permits or other federal permits that they may have to apply for and receive. So there's two sides to this equation. The argument seems to be that we should force these