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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 754

Janssen talked about losing local control of zoning. And I think that's been answered. I don't see anything in this bill that we're going to lose any local control. I see nothing at all. It just helps the producer know ahead of time, before he spends thousands of dollars on a permit, whether he's going to be able to get his zoning permit. So I think it's great. But the number one argument that everybody seems to come back to after they can't come up with anything else is, they say, well, this isn't the number one reason, farmers are losing money. That's the reason there's no livestock. Farmers aren't making any money on livestock. And I'll agree with them. That is the number one reason. But it isn't the only reason. And just because that's the number one reason doesn't mean we shouldn't go and try to help in an area that we, as state legislators, can make a difference. And one...I do have one question. I know the answer to this, but I want to get it on the record. So I'm going ask Senator Bromm a question.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Bromm, would you respond to a question from Senator Cunningham?

SPEAKER BROMM: Yes, I would.

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: In my area, Senator Bromm, I have a couple of young men that are working on some value-added agriculture, and they're putting in some grapes. And with grapes, one of the issues is you can't have a lot of dust and that sort of thing real close to the vineyard. So in their county, the setbacks, I believe, are a quarter mile. Now, if somebody a half a mile away decides to put in a large feedlot, would this still be able to be part of the conditional items that's set forth by the county before...ahead of time?

SPEAKER BROMM: Absolutely. If they have a concern about a preexisting business or enterprise, it more or less is grandfathered. I mean, they're there. They would be able to put special conditions, or say that the setback, in order to avoid potential interference with that business, would have to be greater than a half mile, or whatever the normal distance would be. They would have that flexibility to do that.