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LB 754

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Bromm, would you respond to Senator Byars?

SENATOR BYARS: Establishing a farm friendly, an agricultural friendly county, how...what effect will this have on that type of situation? I know you're engaged in other conversation. Did you...were you able to hear my scenario (inaudible)?

SPEAKER BROMM: I heard the beginning of it. Could you just give me a little quick summary?

SENATOR BYARS: We established P & Z. We established regulations, approved by the county board. Planning and zoning committee heard applications from two individually owned livestock producers to expand. They approved, as they complied with all the regulations. It came to the county board, became politicized, and they turned down the applications. What are we doing here that will prevent that same type of thing from happening.

SPEAKER BROMM: Okay. Two things, Senator Byars. If the county board is going to take the position that generally they don't want livestock expansion, they certainly wouldn't apply for the designation by the Department of Ag. They would be one of those who would not apply, if that's generally their thought. Secondly, if they are going to turn something down like that that's been approved by the planning commission, or recommended, this would require that they put their findings of fact in writing with their decision, so that they are saying, this is why we are denying the permit. Now, if it's because of emotional pressure, that wouldn't really be a finding of fact. But if it's because the applicants have failed to show that they're going to have enough land to dispose of the waste, or it's too close to a housing development, or something like that, those are facts. And all we're asking is that they try to give us objective findings with their decision, because emotion has been exactly what has been taking over around the state on this issue. You hit it right on the head.

SENATOR BYARS: Okay. I appreciate that response, Senator Bromm. And I...it appears to me on the surface, and I'm very