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LB 754

one of the ways that we chose to have the discussion about this important industry in our state and to try and promote it. I do want to thank Senator Bromm for bringing the bill, Senator Burling for prioritizing, Senator Kremer and all of his committee for working very hard on it. I think there are some wrong perceptions of the bill out there. And I think this morning in our discussion we certainly have tried to clarify those as far as the control of the local zoning boards and the planning commissions. I, too, was one of those members on the floor when we discussed zoning, and certainly supported it. We still have, I believe, 16 counties that are not zoned. But I believe there are really some important parts of this bill, particularly just designating those livestock friendly counties. There's no mandate. But if the counties want to follow the standards and the criteria that will be set up by the Department of Agriculture, they may do so. And industries will then be able to refer to that database that will be held by the Department of Agriculture. As much as we want, things are never going to be like they used to be. And I think we mentioned that. Yes, we'd all like to go back to those small livestock operations, the small chicken operations that we have. It is not going to be that way. One of the facts of information that was passed around that I thought really did hit home, 20 years ago, in 1983, we had 2,816 dairies. Today, we have 516, in 2003. So as much as we want it, we know that everything is changing in our society, and that also goes for agriculture. I believe that we need to continue to support rural Nebraska. We need to encourage those industries to come. We're never going to be another North Carolina. And we all are aware of what happened in North Carolina because they did not have rules, they did not have regulations. We can be very proud of the regulations that we have set up in our waste...Livestock Waste Management Act, through the hard work of the Natural Resources Committee, through our Department of Environmental Quality. So we have a lot of things that we can be proud of. And I believe we just all need to continue to work together, to communicate, educate each other, and continue to try to make this state continue to be the important agriculture and livestock producers that we have been and will...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.