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FLOOR DEBATE

April 7, 2003 LB 754

mine is in the mix somewhere, which I don't mind. But, members of the Legislature, here's the way I see this bill. If you pass it, it does not require or ensure that a permit which was rejected in the past will be granted after passage of this bill. It does not change that at all. Anybody who had applied for a permit and did not get it would not be entitled to have it under this bill simply because it's enacted. So there's no change there. If a permit had been granted and some people didn't like the fact, this bill's passage would not give them a stronger position to object to a permit that had been granted. So it's not going to change the situation, regardless of whether a permit had been granted or denied. This bill by its terms does not limit what a county board or planning commission can do in setting standards or requirements or criteria which must be met before a permit can be granted. That exists right now. That will continue to exist. This bill does not touch that. So it's not needed for that purpose. This bill cannot mandate that a commission or a county board grant any specific permit. That's the way it is now. That's the way it will remain. If a person feels he or she has been dealt with unjustly and goes to court, the person could do that before the bill, the person could do that after the bill. So that is not changed. What is changed? A way to have a hammer to disparage any and every county which does not go along with these big livestock operations, whether they are confinement feeding, cattle growing, or any other kind of livestock operation. There is no basis for the state to single out one, two, or three counties, or any number of counties as being livestock friendly, and suggesting thereby that others are not. This talk that I'm hearing about people who don't exist talking to some fictitious individual saying, in a conversation that never took place, don't try to start an operation in Nebraska because you can't get it. That's not happening all over this country. That's not even happening in Nebraska, because some of these people who are angry and want a bill of this kind are still trying to find a way to start their operations in Nebraska. So when statements are made that are not true, it shows that the mere presentation of the facts will not carry the issue, will not be persuasive. So things that are outside of the lines have to be brought in. And the hope is that a decision will be made on those factors that are tangential or outside the lines, rather than on the basis of