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LB 754

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Kremer, would you yield to a question?

SENATOR KREMER: Yes, I would.

SENATOR CONNEALY: Senator Kremer, the fiscal note had from between \$4,500 to \$56,000. In talking to the Department of Ag, did you have any indication of where they're going to come down on this?

SENATOR KREMER: Yes. They indicated they would not hire any extra personnel. That would be just done within the...their personnel that they have right now. And if you'll look at the bill, it just says, the Department of Agriculture shall establish a process, including criteria and standards. That's about all they would really have to do. And if you look at the fiscal note, it says, if a more extensive program with a full-time staff person is desired, estimated costs would be 50 to 57 thousand dollars. But they are not going to do that. They'll just use their own personnel now and just set out some criteria standards. And I'd like to say, too, that just because you're designated livestock friendly does not mean other counties are not friendly toward livestock. It's just that some county wants to make a special emphasis out there that they would really like to attract some livestock, maybe to have livestock to utilize their distillers grain from the ethanol plant, or whatever the purpose might be. Thank you.

SENATOR CONNEALY: Thank you, Senator Kremer. This part of the bill, the part where the Department of Ag helps counties and helps planning and sets up criteria I think is a good part. The other sections of the bill I don't know if I have so much interest in. I'm worried that we are causing more litigation, that we would actually, by saying final determination earlier in the process, we may stymie counties from allowing development. So I'm still concerned that the wording is correct. I do think that the Department of Ag should help parties deal with these complicated topics. And I think that having someone in the Department of Ag help counties be as open to livestock development as possible I think would be a wonderful thing. I