

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

May 5, 2003

LB 754

on page 1, take out the words that say, "A county that meets the criteria may apply to the director to be designated a livestock friendly county. A county may remove itself from the process at any time." And I know that's the name of the bill, but it seems...it seems weird to me to designate a county livestock friendly, because most of the counties out there are livestock friendly. And if you adopt a designation like this, then does that imply a certain bent perhaps in philosophy, a bent towards the bigger livestock producers? So I would support Senator Beutler's amendment, but I would go a little bit further and I would take that livestock designation out of there, because I think it would mean that counties who are livestock friendly in essence might not be considered livestock friendly according to this bill. And maybe that's a simplistic explanation, but that's kind of the way I feel about it. The other thing I'm still having problems with is this...this really is a zoning issue and Senator Beutler touched on the matter a few minutes ago when he talked about are we going to have other interests that are going to come to the Legislature and want special zoning considerations. Would we have, in that instance, would we have environmentally friendly designations or legislation favoring that, would we have that before the Natural Resources Committee? Would we have business friendly bills, zoning bills, go to the Business and Labor Committee? It brings me back to the point that I...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: ...made the other day on the floor and this should go to the committee that deals with zoning. It shouldn't go to the committee whose special interest it is. And if you look at your committee statement, you'll find that most that came in, in favor of this, were the big agricultural interests, and those that came in opposed were the county officials and the zoning officials and individuals. Lots of individuals came in. So I guess I think county boards already have the opportunity to deal with this problem and according to the wishes of their constituency, and I am very skeptical about imposing this livestock friendly name on any county, but I do like some of the other provisions in Section 1 and 2, which will give counties more information with which to make these decisions on a