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March 16, 2004 LB 916

SENATOR CHAMBERS: That it is 2007?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Yes. Okay, yes, you are correct.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay. Thank you. Why are we doing it at this point?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Senator Chambers, our livestock waste rules in this state have been developed by the Natural Resources Committee and the Legislature, in cooperation with the Department of Environmental Quality. They have been very adequate. I think they have protected the environment, but the EPA, the Environmental Protection Agency, has come out in saying if you are a livestock person and have confined animals then you need a federal permit. And so this bill is mainly putting into statute so that our state laws comply with federal laws, and that way our livestock producers will not have to have two permits. They won't have to have a state permit and a federal permit. They'll have one permit. If we do not...if we don't enact LB 916, eventually our livestock producers will have to have a federal permit and a state permit. That's cumbersome. We don't want to do that.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But the reason this is being done at this time is not to comply with a federal requirement...

SENATOR SCHROCK: Yes, it is.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...but as a convenience to the livestock people. Stated bluntly, that's what it's about at this point. Isn't that true?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Senator Chambers, I think it does both, and it does incur an annual fee which the livestock producers do not pay now.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But that annual fee is not required by federal law, is it?

SENATOR SCHROCK: No, it is not.