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technical. I don't think it's that difficult to do. I would rather do it now and come up with something now rather than waiting until Select File. That's my preference. And I do appreciate the offer, and that's my position on that offer. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Preister. (Visitors introduced.) Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, for the record, federal law requires states to amend their regulations by April 4 and amend their statutes, if required before they can amend their regulations, by April of 2005. We have to amend our regulations by April of '04, and this has to be part of the regulations by April 5...by April of 2005. If states don't do this, the federal government can develop a program for Nebraska. The operators would be required to submit a federal application no later than April of 2006, with approval given by 2007. So there is some urgency to this bill. The federal hammer is to withdraw the approval of our current program and remove state oversight so that federal government would over...operate our livestock program. I do think DEQ has done a commendable job. They have three inspectors in Holdrege, Nebraska, my home town. And I can tell you that a feedlot who inadvertently discharged during a rainfall event north of Holdrege was fined \$30,000. I don't consider that insignificant. And I could drive you by that feedlot, and you would say that's one of the most impeccably clean feedlots that you have ever seen. And they are spending about \$150,000 to modify their plans so that it doesn't happen again. And one of the reasons they were fined is because they didn't report the problem. So our livestock industry is being regulated. My offer to Senator Preister is genuine. There are some concerns about his amendment, and that's the reason I'm going to vote against them now. And...you know, if he says time is on his side, so be it. But I think it's...I think it would be prudent for us to pass this bill, not only be prudent for our livestock industry, but prudent for the state. By all...by anybody who has assessed our program, they would tell you our current regulations are more stringent than federal operations in other states. And so we have a good program in place. And I think