

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

February 1, 2006 LB 975

construction and operating permit applications to natural resource districts and county boards within five days of receipt. It also increases the amount of time from 20 to 30 days that NRDs and the county boards have to comment on an application. This bill and the amendment, AM2002, coming up, which was presented by the Department of Environmental Quality after a meeting with Senator Preister's staff, Senator Kremer's staff, the Department of Agriculture, the Sierra Club, the Farmers Union, the Cattlemen Association, the Farm Bureau, and the Pork Producers, and various other groups over the interim. In 2004, we passed LB 916 in response to EPA's ruling on concentrated animal feeding operations, which has since been overturned by the 2nd Circuit Court. Because LB 916 was tied to the federal regulations, we needed to amend our statutes to be in conformity with the circuit court decisions. Believe me, it was not my desire to have a livestock waste bill in front of you this morning. And I thought, after 2004, we would be done with it. But we are not; we're back. And like I said, there's a lot of apprehension out there. I have a neighbor who has a 6,000-head feedlot. He's going to have to make a major investment in his feedlot or quit. And I'm talking about probably \$200,000, what it's going to cost him. And I hear this every day, and you hear it from the livestock people. Fortunately, most of them, I think, will stay in business, and some of them may even expand, because if you're going to make that kind of investment, you need to spread that out over more animal cost, and so they're probably going to expand a little bit. And unfortunately, the larger facilities already have their facilities in place, so it seems to be the mid-sized people that are getting hurt the most. I would appreciate your consideration on this. If you have any questions, I'll try and answer them. I assume the amendment, AM2002, will be next up, and I'll explain that.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Schrock. First amendment, Ms. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, Natural Resources would offer committee amendments.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you. We'll now move to the Natural