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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Smith. Senator Stuhr.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I do rise in support of the amendment and also the bill. And I want to personally thank Senator Schrock and his legal counsel, Jody Gittins, for all of the work that they have done on this bill. This is actually the first time that I have seen all of the major farm organizations and all of the ag groups come together and support one bill. It was very encouraging to see that effort the day of the hearing. This is a good bill. Just mentioning a little bit about the importance of livestock production in our state, it is over a \$6 billion industry, and it accounts for about 64 percent of all agriculture cash receipts in our state. Livestock are also the largest consumer of grain, and particularly corn and soybeans, in our state. Sixty percent of the corn that is harvested in our state is fed to our livestock. So this is an important bill, because we have been having some concerns about the permitting process, and has been earlier stated that some of the costs that these producers are having to endure because of this permitting process. And it's actually having a reverse effect in the fact that they are needing to spend over...well, some of them, over \$200,000 to get this permitting process. So then they expand their feedlots to try to accommodate those extra costs. And I think we would all prefer the smaller livestock operations, but this is just not possible in the world that we live today. This amendment, I believe, is very good in the fact that it does allow the state more flexibility. And particularly since the court case, that is something that we are particularly needing. I will give the rest of my time to Senator Schrock, if he would...he does...he waives off. But thank you, and I ask for your support of this amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Do you have an amendment at the desk, Mr. Clerk?

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers would move to amend. (FA379, Legislative Journal page 519.)