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FLOOR DEBATE

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away with about each one of those meetings of confusion, not anybody knowing really which direction it's going. And as things have changed with the EPA, I think it's very important that we come back with this legislation and be responsive to what needs to be done. I was very pleased at the hearing that we had support from even the groups that have normally been opposed to this. And as Senator Stuhr mentioned, the impact of livestock in our state is very substantial, and especially with all the ethanol plants coming on, how we need livestock. And we need to be responsive to our water quality and our air quality, and I think livestock people are concerned about that, but sometimes other things enter into the debate. One of the groups that's normally opposed was invited to come out to a feedlot in my area, which is a small feedlot of about 1,500 head, and look at what the requirements were, that they were going to have to spend \$150,000. And the wife of this individual really would like to have them quit because it just doesn't feel like it's worth it all. And this person that normally would be opposed to it came away and said, this is not what we intended to do. And we thought all the time that it's hurting our smaller producers, the 2,000 to 3,000 to 1,000 head, more than the big ones, and that's been the intention many times of putting more restrictions on to stop these large operations, but it's almost...it's doing the opposite of that. And so I was glad when people saw that...what's really happening to the industry, and while we're almost forcing the small ones out of business and going to larger operations. So many times in agriculture we aren't really looking for a lot of incentive, but let's take away some of the disincentives, and I think this is one of them, just in the cost requirements to meet all these qualifications on some lots. This lot that I was talking about is just extremely kept up well and clean. They had to even take out trees that were there for a purpose, just in order to get the waste facilities in place. And the cost of another one in our area is about \$200,000, and it gets to the place where you just can't afford that. So I will support Senator Chambers' amendment and I support the bill as is amended. And thank you. You can...I'll turn the rest of my time back to the Chair.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Thank you, Senator Kremer. Senator Engel.