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FLOOR DEBATE

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the waste control facility that needed to be in place. That is just about complete now and that's been two years, so it's been a long time in process. But I'm not really complaining, in the sense that it was a significant study. There was an awful lot of work, engineering work, that had to be done. In effect, in order for me to apply for a zoning permit, I needed to have that engineering work completed. In my case, 3,000 head of cattle, the cost of the engineering study itself I think is between somewhere between \$50,000 and \$75,000. Now, the way the sequence works, in my case I needed, once I had gotten through the DEQ process, to go before the county zoning board, but the county zoning board was not really willing to consider my application until the engineering work was completed. So it was a sort of a thing where you need to do the engineering work as preparation; then you can go to the county zoning board. Once you get to the county zoning board, though, the way things are, without anything done in this connection, it's a political decision. In my particular case, I was in an area zoned agricultural. There was no...not even any transition ag nearby. I met all the setback requirements and I also had complied with, as I say, the inspection requirements that DEQ imposed. But even given all that and having spent the money for the engineering study, I was at risk of being turned down by the county zoning board who, by the way, has no obligation, and maybe that's the way it should be, but they have no obligation to grant the permit, the way it is right now, just because you meet all the requirements. So you are in a position where not only you may have spent a lot of money for an engineering study that is technically complete and appropriate, but you are stopped before you can go on to do the work. In addition, you're operating a livestock operation and you're sort of in the double-bind that...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR RAIKES: ...you can't continue to operate, because you're now out of compliance with the DEQ, but you may not be able to get in compliance with the DEQ because the zoning board won't allow you to go forward. And all I would mention, I know that Senator Chambers and others are concerned about is this some big livestock operation rolling over its smaller neighbors.