TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

February 23, 2006 LB 975

to try and come in compliance, or whether I should just quit. And, as you know, the rural economy is certainly livestock base. If we don't have our livestock then we have to ship our grain. We have a perfect situation in Nebraska where we have a relatively dry climate, which is good for confined animal livestock husbandry, and we have large quantities of grain, alfalfa, feedstocks, and so we should be encouraging livestock facilities. The problem is there isn't very many small farmers left. Matter of fact, the way it's going, there may not be many medium-sized farmers. And the expansion that we're asking consideration for actually would be considered for medium-sized producers. If you want to say that the facilities of over 5,000 head no expansion would be allowed on them, and allow the expansion for the ones under 5,000 head, I could live with that. Keep in mind, if they can get county approval, they can expand all they want, and we'd hope there would be some of that take place. But what I don't want to do is see a producer spend \$100,000 and then go to the county and the county says, no, they've had too much political pressure put on them, we're not going to approve it. Not only do they not come in regulations; they'll lose their whole livestock feeding operation and their means of making a living. I do want to protect those. We had some... I think the committee feels that way. And I don't know, I would hope the people that are representing the livestock industry here in the state aren't greedy people. We're just trying to make a living. The economics of scale is there. I grew up when we had a few sows, we had a chicken house with chickens in it, and we had 50 steers behind the barn. We scooped corn to them. And my brother and I, we went out before corn harvest, we picked corn by hand on the end of the field so when you turned...when you turned around with a pole-type picker, where you pick two rows of corn at a time, you wouldn't ... you wouldn't knock those down. Times have changed and if you're sentimental maybe the change isn't good. Senator Chambers, I'll work with you. We'll do what we can. just hope you understand that the reason I support this modest expansion for those mid-sized producers is so that their economies of scale can be a little better. And I think one of the things, we're doing the county boards a tremendous favor here because it takes a lot of political pressure off them. A lot of times they'd like to do this, but they get political