

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

March 30, 1998 LB 1152, 1209

three "no" votes to bring this bill out of committee. I believe the reason we're here today is because of the concern by the public over pollution and over large hog confinement facilities. Senator Robinson, you represent the largest cattle feeding county in the state in Cuming County. I know if, Senator Bromm, I don't know if you have part of that county or not. Do you have part of it? Senator Engel has part of that county. Senator Cudaback, you represent the second largest cattle feeding county in the state in Dawson County, and I represent the third largest cattle feeding county in the state in Phelps County. There's a lot of concern out there by the cattle people what this bill may or may not do to them. There's a lot of concern about what DEQ will and won't do and a lot of mistrust out there. We wouldn't be here today if it wasn't for the hog industry and we need hogs in this state, but that's what's brought the concern. And if you're concerned about hogs, then you should...about large hog facilities then you should talk to Jerry Schmitt, because this isn't the bill that's going to stop hogs from coming to the state of Nebraska. These large hog facilities will comply with all these regulations and...and maybe that's okay. I have a group of people in Alma, Nebraska, that don't want a large hog confinement facility in their county. LB 1209 won't stop that. They'll still come. If you're concerned about hogs, you should be...you should be paying attention to 1152. Now, the state of Nebraska annually produces about a billion bushel of corn and what happens to that corn? It has to be fed to livestock or it goes through an ethanol plant or it gets shipped out of the state. And if any of you involved in the agriculture industry in this state want to know how frustrating it was last year because we couldn't get a good price for our corn because the railroads couldn't ship it, it piled up alongside of the elevators and the railroads were bogged down and they're still bogged down, and I'm afraid of what might happen this coming fall if we have a large crop. Where's the corn going to grow...going to go? Well, we probably better be thinking about feeding some of it to livestock and to try and expand our livestock industry in this state. I, too, have problems with this bill. I hope our committee chairman will work with Senator Schellpeper so we can have a reasonable amendment that the livestock industry can work with. I have a big problem with the financial assurance provisions of this bill. I am told that it could put a lot of livestock producers