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self-assessment for businesses on environmental concerns, and yet insists on regulating a chicken, or in the case, if it is true that it's limited to 100 animal units, a person with 50 cows and 200 hogs or so around the place. And that, my friends, is an awfully small operation. The amount of money that is being appropriated to the Department of Environmental Quality doesn't even come close...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR COORDSEN: ...to paying for the number of personnel it would take to accomplish the goals of this, if in fact that is the goal. Then what do we do about accidental discharge of animal waste into the waterways of this state? I have yet to be convinced that this trip is necessary, and I've yet to be convinced that this trip is necessary with the load it's carrying. I've had to work with the Department of Environmental Quality on several issues within the past 12 months, and I'll tell you that without this authority that they do an awfully good job of protecting the environment with what authority they currently have. And I'm not so sure that we want to go as far as what LB 1209.... And, unless someone can prove to me otherwise, I simply, on behalf of animal agriculture in Nebraska, cannot support the bill as it's before us at this time. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. Senator Maurstad, to speak to the committee amendments as amended.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Madam President. Right on the heels of Senator Coordsen, I'm not going to repeat what he has already said, but would concur with his analysis. A couple of general comments. I've passed out the growth in DEQ staffing over the course of the last decade, and I just want to throw a little caution into the wind to say that just because we provide some additional staff does not necessarily mean that the problem that that is supposed to address will in fact be addressed. I think that part of what occurred last year during the backlog was in fact a de facto moratorium when the department found themselves between a rock and a hard spot on how to respond to something that was being addressed in the public arena. If you look at the other handout that I've distributed, dealing