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FLOOR DEBATE

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that our state's livestock disease management infrastructure, built painstakingly over the years, remains in place to respond to new livestock disease challenges. The bill was endorsed at the committee hearing by the Nebraska Livestock Industry Association, the Veterinary Medical Association, Nebraska Pork Producers Association, and the Nebraska Farmers Union. The Nebraska Cattlemen also add their endorsement contingent upon adoption of certain provisions contained in the committee amendments. The bill also brings Nebraska in line with the objectives and recommendations of the National Animal Health Emergency Management System. This is a joint state-federal industry effort to improve the United States' ability to deal with successfully...to deal successfully with animal health emergencies, including introductions of devastating foreign animal disease, such as foot-and-mouth disease. I would move the advancement of LB 438.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Senator Dierks, you're recognized to open on the committee amendments. (AM0512, Legislative Journal page 741.)

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. President. The committee amendments add the provisions of LB 208, which deals with livestock carcass disposal, and clarifies certain items within the original bill pertaining to livestock disease surveillance activities. First, the amendments modify original Section 2 of the bill by addressing concerns expressed by the Nebraska Cattlemen during the hearing. As pointed out in the opening, the bill authorizes the Department of Agriculture to conduct surveillance for livestock disease according to certain protocols. As written, subsection (4) of Section 2 of the bill, which is pages 3 and 4 of the green copy, provide that surveillance activities, primarily the collection of tissue, blood, or other samples necessary for lab analysis, may be conducted at livestock collection points. The bill provides that such testing for nonprogram diseases shall be conducted at livestock collection points with the concurrence of the owner of the premises, except if the state veterinarian determines that the disease to be tested for may pose a serious threat. The committee amendments provide that the determination that a disease poses a serious threat shall be made in consultation and