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FLOOR DEBATE

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Chapter 54, article 7 are modified to include rule and regulatory authority to develop rules reflecting best management practices for livestock carcass disposal and to bring the department's carcass disposal responsibilities within the enforcement mechanisms currently available to the department. New Section 24 to be added to the bill, found beginning on page 7 of the amendment, adds Section 7 of LB 208, which I believe is a key provision. Essentially, this section would facilitate on-farm research and demonstration of new, innovative livestock carcass disposal methods. Currently, 54-744 limits the means of disposal to burial, composting, incineration, or removal by a licensed renderer. Technically, on-farm evaluation of proposed disposal methods would be precluded as being in violation of existing law. Several criteria are imposed, including that any such research facility be registered with the department, that research be limited to five facilities at any one time, that the research project be designed and overseen by research faculty at UNL, that the research not duplicate existing research, and that the project will employ sufficient safeguards to prevent disease transmission or potential environmental contamination. The committee amendments further prohibit the testing of liquefaction methods. I want to repeat that for you. The committee amendments further prohibit the testing of liquefaction methods of disposal. This provision is important to the overall goal of LB 208 to develop new alternatives to burial that are potentially more economical and better from an environmental perspective. The research provision complements other portions of the bill, and I believe is only prudent and necessary to enable the livestock industry to progress. Between the original bill and the committee amendments, there is quite a bit to digest. I'll be...try to be happy to answer any questions for you. And I would move the adoption of the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Senator Dierks would move to amend the committee amendments, Mr. President. (AM1148, Legislative Journal page 1207.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Dierks, you're recognized to open