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SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor and members. I can be quick here, I think. But I'm going to go back to a point I made earlier. If I go to the green copy, on page 3, line 13, I read: "when department funds and personnel are available and such activities are determined by the department to be relevant, the department shall develop a statewide livestock emergency response system capable of coordinating and executing a rapid response to the incursion of, or potential incursion of a dangerous livestock disease episode". In my view, that language is way too permissive. I think it should be clear that that is the number one priority of the department, that this is something that is clearly a public activity. It's not something that an individual or a private livestock producer can address. So that ought to be the absolute top priority. It hadn't ought to be something the department does when they find funds or personnel available. I can tell you that livestock producers and others are expecting right now that this is being done by the department, I believe. The other thing I'll mention, if you go to the last part, if there's something you need to give up in order to make that a top priority, I would suggest that voluntary herd certification, if I have the right phrase, may not be...it may not be necessary to give that up, but certainly it's a lower priority. Voluntary livestock certification is something that I as an individual producer can do for...can do myself. And I would also think that certain parts of that are a private rather than a public activity, and there ought to be a fee, probably, that I should pay to help support that sort of activity. So the...my main point is that I don't think the epidemiology aspect of the department is sufficiently emphasized in this language. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Raikes. Senator Dierks, you're recognized to close on the committee amendments to LB 438.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I would like to address a little bit what Senator Raikas is talking about. Committee research analyst tells me that departments now have the authority, within 54-701, to do...they have authority to do quarantine premises or areas, and to regulate and prohibit imports and exports. This does not