

groups across the state, including the Farm Bureau, the Cattlemen, and the Farmers Union. So I think that we need to keep everybody in the agricultural business supporting this legislation and we won't do that if we try to make this change. I urge that you don't support this amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Die-ks. Senator Bromm.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Madam President. I also am in opposition to this amendment. Over the course of the past year or so, I have had an opportunity to watch the development of this act. There were hearings, some of which I was able to attend, on FIFRA last year, held by a legislative committee. The Department of Agriculture, as well as several other departments, have had an opportunity to have a lot of input and so have a lot of farm organizations. We are a long ways down the road and this would be a monumental change. I think the primary objective here is to get at the problem and solve the problem and I think the time for turf battles and arguing about what agency should be the lead agency is behind us, hopefully. The FIFRA act involves such things as education, registration and coordination and I think the Department of Agriculture is perfectly capable of providing that kind of leadership. They provided an awful lot of leadership in drafting this act and I think...I don't think we should strip them from them at this late date. Agriculture, even though the number of products that Senator Beutler points out would be strictly agricultural products, as opposed to household and more urban use products, the number might not be as great in terms of number. The dollars spent and the volume of products used and probably the potential problems arising out of the use thereof is far greater in the agricultural sector than it might be with the use of some of the other products that Senator Beutler refers to. And I think, because of that, it's extremely important that we have the agricultural sector on board that they have confidence in the way that this program is going to be administered and that we have total cooperation on the agricultural front. Without that kind of confidence, it will make the job that this act does a lot more difficult, and I think if we looked at the overall objective of what we're trying to do with this act, we're far better to leave it in the Department of Agriculture and...and I think these agencies are going to cooperate. If there is an overlap of jurisdiction, if there is something that DEQ can do to help the Department of Agriculture implement this act, I'm confident that they will work together to do that. Thank you,