One Hundred Third Legislature - First Session - 2013

Introducer's Statement of Intent

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Chairperson: Senator Tom Carlson

Committee: Natural Resources

Date of Hearing: January 30, 2013

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

Legislative Bill 186 amends Section 2-3228(1)(f) to restrict the rule or regulation authority of Natural Resources Districts (NRD). The bill would clarify that no NRD would have the power to promulgate any rule or regulation requiring that land be irrigated to apply manure.

The bill seeks to address current rules in a NRD that might lead to some unintended consequences, such as encouraging the use of certain manure application systems that do not spread manure as evenly, potentially leading to an increase risk of groundwater problems. Or, a producer may not be able to find enough irrigated acres, because of their geographicaly location, to apply all the manure produced from their animal operation and force them to reduce the size of their operation.

In addition, it is the intent of LB186 to discuss whether a rule to regulate manure application is within the jurisdiction of the NRD.

Senator Mark Christensen