

One Hundred Third Legislature - First Session - 2013

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB550

Chairperson: Senator Ken Schilz

Committee: Agriculture

Date of Hearing: February 12, 2013

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

LB550 addresses the public interest in assessing efforts of the livestock industry and rural communities to preserve and enhance livestock development as an essential element of economic development. It is the intent of LB550 to allow the Legislature to seek reasonable means to nurture and support the livestock sector of the state.

The Livestock Growth Act is created in order to assist counties that have received a livestock friendly designation from the Director of Agriculture. This Act would direct the Department of Environmental Quality to assist counties in identifying and assessing sites suitable for livestock expansion. It would also make available a no-interest loan program to counties, co-administered by the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Economic Development, to finance infrastructure necessary to accommodate livestock expansion. Finally, LB550 would increase caps for tax credits available through the Nebraska Advantage Rural Development Act to incentivize livestock expansion and modernization to the benefit of rural communities and Nebraska's total economy.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Ken Schilz