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Kevin D. Miller
State Representative

Chairman Creech, Vice Chair Klopenstein, Ranking Member Brent and my colleagues on the House Agriculture Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on HB 193. This piece of legislation addresses various aspects with respect to biodigestion facilities and biosolid lagoons. For my portion of the testimony, I will concentrate on the piece which would require an adequate cover on any biosolid lagoon used for commercial purposes.

For those who are unaware, a biosolid lagoon is any artificial pool, below or above ground, that is used to store biosolid wastes. Biosolid waste may include any of the following: human waste, food or food processing waste, industrial waste or agricultural waste. The purpose of requiring a cover on these lagoons is to adequately prevent and mitigate noxious odors that overwhelm surrounding communities. The specifications for the covers will be adopted in rules by the director of the EPA.

The legislation would only affect new construction. Let me be clear, current lagoons operating in the state would be grandfathered and would not be required to have a cover. Additionally, this bill does not aim to disrupt lagoons used for everyday agricultural purposes, but would apply to lagoons that are used for commercial purposes and are registered with the EPA. I will now turn it over to Representative Lampton to expand on the other portions of the legislation.