

Select File. Mr. Chairman, I move the advancement of LB 639.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Senator Kahle, do you wish to speak to the bill itself?

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. Chairman, members of the body. I do. I have gotten up to speak a number of times since I have been in the Legislature and many times I didn't know what I was talking about, I'm pretty sure. But when it comes to raising corn I do have a little bit of experience. Last summer or maybe even before that it was brought to our attention by the corn growers association of the State of Nebraska that corn was one commodity that we were not trying to promote and sell over the world. We found out that there are of course successes and failures when you have a check off and you try to sell things. I would like to relate to you one of the success of a check off. This is a voluntary one it so happens, but it is in the pork business. Prok people have started a check off several years ago and have been very, very successful. If you will look back a few years you will remember that there was hardly ever pork on the menu in a fine restaurant. Today you can find usually find several pork products on the menu. If you pick up some of the national magazines, especially a year or two ago you found recipes using pork. Well this is what they did to promote pork. Also, you may remember that pork is one of the few livestock commodities that have held their own in price. I'm not saying that we can do the same thing for corn but here is a bunch of people, corn growers of Nebraska that want to help themselves. Not a government program, it is not something that they are asking the state to pay for, they want to pay for it themselves. I would certainly hope that you would support this. It does have a sunset provision, if it doesn't work we can certainly take it off in four years. They are starting out slow. They are asking for one/tenth of one cent per bushel until we find out all that can be done and it can not go over four/tenths of one cent. I highly approve of this type of an operation and I certainly hope that we can promote...pass this legislation and let these people promote their products. Thank you.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Chair recognizes Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. President, colleagues, I might as well make my position clear right from the start. I have always opposed check offs in this matter. I think that if you want to have a check off it should go to a vote of those corn producers and let those people through the ballot say if they want or do not wish to have a mandatory check off. That is exactly what this is. I know that you can have it returned if you happen to think about it. I just think that it is poor policy for every commodity, every different commodity to come before this Legislature and ask for this kind of money. I'm going to ask Senator Burrows what he estimates this to raise? Total dollars in a year in the State of Nebraska.

SENATOR BURROWS: On the first year the estimates that we were given was...the first year at the one/tenths of a cent was \$200,000 and the four/tenths of a cent was at the maximum which it would be upon the decision of the Board in future years would be approximately \$800,000.