

more board members for Nebraska on that board. That would give us more strength, more say on the board and I think would give us more power as far as the direction that the National Livestock and Meat Board would take. I don't believe, and I think it's very clear if you talk with Nebraska Beef Board members, that they want to keep the additional 25 cents to spend solely here in Nebraska. That is not their intent. They simply see this as an opportunity to comply with what all the other states are currently doing that have a promotional board, allows some discretionary use of funds that we don't have right now and I think would give us some more political muscle in some circles, livestock circles, that I think we deserve. And so, as I said, the bill is relatively simple but could have a positive impact on the say and the direction that some of these national boards have, considering Nebraska is quickly becoming the leading cattle feeding state in the nation and I think those numbers are only going to continue to grow and I think, as those numbers grow, it is evident to me, at least, that Nebraska's potential power and say on these boards should be recognized and this is one way we can do that. So I would urge for the advancement of the bill.

SPEAKER BARRETT PRESIDING

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion? Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, to reiterate a little bit like what Senator Johnson said, this is a good bill. It will put Nebraska back on even footing with the other beef producing states. The money that will change or be shifted within the collection process back to the Nebraska Beef Board for their allocation is fairly restricted by statute as to how they can use it. So the money will be used basically in the same fashion that it is currently used. The only difference will be that Nebraska will again have control over half of the beef checkoff which is comparable to other states. So I would also encourage the advancement of LB 582.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Any other discussion? If not, the question is the advancement of LB 582. Those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Shall LB 582 be advanced? Record, please.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to advance LB 582.