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Senator Jones, and Senator Wehrbein, then Senator Beutler.

SENATOR CONNEALY: Thank you, Senator. I rise in support of the committee amendments. We're in a different environment in our livestock market today. Livestock producers and farmers have always been at a disadvantage in the marketplace, and we'll probably remain in that place in the future. The power has always been with the packer and a processor. Today the balance is even tipped farther toward the processors. Price discovery has been compromised because the fact that a lot of our production now is not being reported. This, I believe, has, in recent times, driven the price down farther than it would have otherwise. Contract production, which has been touted as being helpful in capturing price and capturing volatility, has worked against producers. We've seen how complicated contracts can be used against us. Prices for different producers are different, prices for different contracts are different between producers, and contract requirements are not publicly disclosed. Thirdly, open and free markets where processors have many producers to buy from, and where producers have many buyers are almost gone. Processors raising their own livestock limits the openness and freeness that we have in our markets. This combined bill works to address price discovery, complicated (inaudible), discriminatory contracts, and captive supply. LB 835, as amended, sends the right message to the federal government. And I ask that you pass on the committee amendments.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this is a bill which is complex, but it's not beyond the capacity of understanding of anybody, I don't think. The committee hearing was very lengthy. Both sides appeared. I believe that the side that favors these bills had the better of it, not just because I also favor the bills, but when you have an IBP, ConAgra, Farmland, and Cargill lined up on one side, and all of the independent producers on the other, that's an unfair match. Sometimes one will sell livestock to the other. If they can flood the market, then the prices are going to go down, and the producers are going to panic, and they're going to try to sell as much of their livestock as they have for whatever they can get, which means what they get is going to be even less.