

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

April 22, 1999 LB 835

in livestock and other agricultural products. So I hope that we will take advantage of this opportunity, I hope that this bill as amended will move forward, that we will serve notice to both producers and processors in ag industries in the state that we are serious about making some advances, and that we will carefully consider and implement advances involving information technology that allow access, representative prices and the lowest possible transaction cost. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Raikes. Senator Chambers, on the Dierks amendment to the Wehrbein amendment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, again, with what the Legislature is doing here today, I think, can have an impact on what other states may wind up doing. Often all of us have heard, while we're in committees, the argument is made that so many and so many states are doing thus and so, therefore Nebraska ought to do it, too. I have always maintained that if an idea has validity, Nebraska doesn't need to wait until a lot of other people do it before acting. If the idea has merit and it ought to be put into law, then Nebraska ought to be the one to take the step and do what is available for the Nebraska Legislature to do. And on this bill, LB 835, that's what I think is going to happen. It's good that Senator Wehrbein was drawn into the mix. Senator Brashear, the grape-maker is in the mix, and I think by the time we get through we'll have a bill that is something of value, not only from the standpoint of how producers may be benefited in Nebraska, but it may have some impact on those at the federal level. What these packers don't want is a patchwork of different state rules throughout the country. If they can intimidate every state out of passing any kind of law, the patchwork quilt is never going to surface, and therefore they can keep holding up the notion that the federal government may do something. But if states do begin the patchwork quilt operation, then these packers will begin to say, well maybe as bad as it is, we'll ask the federal government to put in place reporting legislation which does do what producers need to have done in terms of giving them information at a time when it will benefit them in the same way that other big interests get it right now. Nebraska can be one of the first patches in the quilt. And I hope that nobody who has supported this bill will