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FLOOR DEBATE

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on FA1206.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature. I would like to thank Senator Landis and the Revenue Committee for the in-depth review they have done of LB 775. This is something that has needed to be done. The bill has been on the books for nearly over 15 years, and I think something like this needs to be reviewed at various times. The part where we was excluding livestock processing facilities, that would be excluding a whole industry in this state of Nebraska, and it is one of the major important ones of this area. I noticed during the debate today that if you don't like this type of industry you call it a slaughterhouse, and if you like it, why, you call it a facility. So I'll probably refer to it as a facility. This is something that value adds to a local resource that we already have in place. It not only value adds to the resource that we grow with our feed grains and corn, water, whatever resources we have to produce that. It also adds a number of jobs. It's an industry that adds jobs along with value adding to our natural resource. There's a lot of towns in the area that have done quite well by having packinghouses in their towns. I think Crete, Nebraska, probably wouldn't be where it is today if it wasn't for Farmland. We have Lexington. I know when the livestock facility manufacturing quit in Lexington, why, it was a consideration for them, what they were going to do. And as the packing facilities came in there, why, it made quite a difference. And these are all things that we need to consider when we're working on these types of rules. I've heard debate for days the other day about the amount of money that is going over the river in gambling in Iowa, and have you ever stopped to think the amount of money that would be going out of the state by the truckloads if we didn't have our livestock facilities in Nebraska? At the present time, we have very few facilities in the western part of the state. We're trying to get one started in Gordon at the present time, but have you ever considered the amount of money that we're hauling to Fort Morgan and Greeley, Colorado, by the semi loads? Also there is Liberal, Kansas, and Scott City, Kansas, that also that a lot of the fat cattle and livestock are hauled to those areas, too. This is all a value-added product that's leaving our state that could be processed and go out in a box and come back as the