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FLOOR DEBATE

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Nebraska. In short, the hydrolyzation process has the advantage of turning a liability into a definite asset. I urge that you adopt this amendment. If you have any questions, I'd certainly try to answer those.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Engel. You've heard the opening on AM0629, which is an amendment to LB 160. Open for discussion on the Engel amendment. Senator Kremer, followed by Senator Janssen.

SENATOR KREMER: Thank you, Senator Cudaback, members. Thank you, Senator Engel. I think he did a real good job of explaining the process. This is a bill that we heard in committee. Took us awhile to get it out because there were some changes and some concerns. The committee, we did have committee amendments, but they are part of the...they are incorporated in the amendment that Senator Engel just introduced. Originally, the bill was introduced saying that the on-farm grinding and processing would be excluded from the rendering regulations, and that was not something that was really desired. The way it was amended now is that the process of grinding and euthanizing the chickens on the farm before they're hauled to the process plant is part of the rendering, whole procedure, and can be inspected by the Department of Agriculture. I think it's very fitting that this bill can be placed onto LB 160. They both involve the Nebraska Bureau of Animal Industry, which is part of the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, and we did hold up LB 160 so we could put on LB 180 onto this. Some of the concerns that were expressed that we had to get answered before we passed the bill out of committee was that, even though they said there was no evidence of E. coli and I think salmonella, after the process there was not really a third party verification from an independent laboratory to find out if there was really any pathogens going in before the process started. And so we did get a lot of information from them and they have done some third party verification on this. Plus, the department feels like they can step in any time and stop the process if it's not going to be safe. Another thing is that the renderers were concerned that they would...that this process would not be under the same regulations as what a rendering company is, but they...we have letters from two rendering companies that their answers...or