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LB 754

for the most concern, it is one that they still oppose. And these are rural constituency folks. These are folks from all of the rural legislative districts that I'm hearing from. I don't even represent directly these folks and these rural areas, but they are certainly still concerned. One of them that I just received states, our organizations are overwhelmingly opposed to LB 754; were at the hearing, and continue to oppose it. While many of the amendments have helped make LB 754 a better bill as a whole, it still is very...a very substantial step backwards. LB 754 fixes no real problem faced by Nebraska livestock producers, as the overwhelming majority of livestock permit requests are approved, and that has been the case. Most counties do approve the vast majority of the permits. And if there isn't a problem with approval, then perhaps what they're saying, we're trying to fix a problem that doesn't exist, is accurate. They go on to say, our organizations continue to oppose it. It attracts...it attacks local control, when in fact the data clearly shows that the majority of permit applications are approved. Nebraska, once again, leads the nation in red meat production. The same reason Nebraska is not gaining additional livestock producers is the same reason we are losing livestock producers, and that is agricultural prices.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR PREISTER: Hog producers, they say, are continuing to lose about \$15 per hog. Over and over again in the hearing...oh, and that was signed by Women Involved in Farm Economics in Nebraska, WIFE, the Nebraska State Grange, the Nebraska Farmers Union, and the Nebraska League of Rural Voters. Over and over again in the hearing we heard that the problem is not the permitting process; that the problem is the prices that are being paid and not being able to control prices on the farm. Producers can't set or determine their prices. The prices are low. The prices have been low. Producers have been losing money on pork. That's the real issue and that's the reason that people aren't either going into the business or are leaving the business. If prices were good the problem wouldn't be there. So the problem is price...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.