

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

January 12, 2004 LB 172

SENATOR LOUDEN: No, I'm not familiar with what they do in some of the other countries, because that's the reason we want this country of origin labeling to come about, is so that you can check back to see what country they came from and what they're processing facilities are.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: You know that in this country not all of the cattle are tested. I think I read where .06 of 1 percent, or 20,000 out of the 35 million that are slaughtered every year, 20,000 out of that 35 million are tested and the only place they can be tested is Ames, Iowa. Now, Japan requires the testing of every animal. The European Union requires testing of animals above a certain age. America is probably worse than any other country when it comes to testing. Do you disagree with that?

SENATOR LOUDEN: Well, for one thing, I think you might be elaborating on something that isn't...does...that's not exactly factual. I guess you got a lot of facts,...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: What part is not...

SENATOR LOUDEN: ...but I don't know if your conclusions are right.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: What part is not factual?

SENATOR LOUDEN: The part is, sure, there have been about 20,000 head a year that are tested. The second part is that there was never any BSE ever showed up in the United States so it wasn't necessary to test them. Now, to test everything, first of all, they usually don't think it shows up in cattle that are under 30 months of age, and probably over half the cattle slaughtered are probably in that age group. So it isn't really necessary to test every one that comes along.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Louden.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Be more apt to go out and try and test all the dairy cattle, older cows that are slaughtered, because those are usually the older animals that are kept. That's where it showed