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SENATOR LOUDEN: Okay, that's what I was concerned about, because I know we...there is diseases in bees that will wipe out whole colonies, and that's the reason I'm wondering if we should really let something like this go unchecked or if we should still do something to protect the bee...the bee apiaries that we have in Nebraska. Thank you.

SENATOR KREMER: Okay. Okay, I could answer that just a little bit. They still do have the authority. As I mentioned the last item of the things that they would still be required to do, they would still have authority to prosecute violators, such as prohibitions on knowingly keeping bee colonies that are infected with disease and parasite. So they do still have some responsibilities, but they would not be required to have a permit to enter into the state. They will also be...can continue to provide health...provide health certificates on request, but not mandatory. And I don't know if that alleviates your fears or not, but they still do have some authority to do that.

SENATOR LOUDEN: In other words, they could bring bees into the state, but unless they requested a permit, nobody would know whether or not they were diseased or what the health was of the bee colonies. Is that right?

SENATOR KREMER: I suppose that's a possibility, but the number of bee colonies and apiaries has declined considerably and they don't have the funds.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Is there much of a cost for this service that we do? I mean, what does it cost the Department of Agriculture to request permits and that sort of thing? And when they pay, do they have to pay for those permits in order to get them?

SENATOR KREMER: I'm sorry, I cannot answer that question. I don't know if that was brought up in the testimony at all, and I'm really not familiar with the bee colonies or apiaries. I can find out that information if I (inaudible).

SENATOR LOUDEN: Who proposed this bill or, I mean, who brought it forward? Did the people from the bee business, or who's