

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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February 16, 2005 LB 150

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 150 was a bill introduced by Senator Kremer and others. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 7 of this year, referred to the Agriculture Committee for public hearing. The bill was advanced to General File, Mr. President. I do have committee amendments pending. (AM0218, Legislative Journal page 467.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Kremer, you're recognized to open on LB 150.

SENATOR KREMER: Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members of the body. LB 150 adopts the Nebraska Beef Industry Development Act. I brought LB 150 on behalf of the Nebraska Cattlemen and other individual livestock producers who would like to assure the continuity of a promotion program to serve the beef industry, should the national program be declared unconstitutional. LB 150 is substantially similar to LB 1130, that was amended by the Ag Committee last year. We did not get to it. It was about two down on the senator priority list, and we did not accomplish being able to address it last year, so we brought it back again this year. We heard the bill on January 25. And we do have a few committee amendments. And as I go through the bill, I'd like...I'll just point out when the committee amendments will change that, and then address that when we get to the committee amendments. A little bit of history of the beef checkoff in Nebraska. The industry is a self-funded program for promotion, research, and marketing development and education. It's been continuous in effect since...in Nebraska, since 1983. The legislation was first enacted...the Legislature first enacted the Nebraska Beef Industry Development Act in 1983. It created the Nebraska Beef Industry Development Board as a state agency. The board members are elected by district, defined in the act. It imposed a mandatory assessment collected upon the sales of cattle. Congress enacted the Beef Promotion and Research Act as part of the 1985 farm bill. The act authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to initiate a beef promotion order to impose a mandatory assessment of \$1 per head when cattle are sold or imported. Now, that's always contentious, people saying that imported cattle are not included in the checkoff. But they are. The order was issued in 1996, and installed the National Beef