

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

February 16, 2005 LB 150

checkoff. And they've developed the flatiron steak, and some others, that have taken some cuts that were once just put into hamburger, and made a quality product out of that, which is beneficial to the consumer. Improving beef safety. Beef checkoff dollars helped leverage \$5 million on research methods to better understand E coli. The effort was led to improve production, food preparation, storage, processing, to reduce E coli risks. And it's also part of the Beef Quality Assurance Program, which many of the cattlemen participate in, to do practices that will ensure the safety and the best quality possible. Why we're bringing this before you now is that the national checkoff, which is a mandatory \$1, has been challenged in court. It was declared unconstitutional because it violated the first amendment, saying that it was compelled speech, that people did not support how the money was being spent, were compelled to contribute their money to it. It was declared that it was unconstitutional. The Supreme Court heard the case, and it was in the Supreme Court. I think they heard it about in December sometime, and have not made a ruling on that. Some feel very confident that it will stand. What we're anticipating to do is to pass this legislation so if it would become unconstitutional, we have a seamless transition into having dollars for promotion, research, and education. I will go over some of the parts of the bill and what they do. It reinstates the authority of the state beef development program, and vests the Director of Agriculture the responsibility of carrying out the program. So it would be...the program would be in the overview of the Department of Agriculture in Nebraska. It grants basically the authority necessary to carry out such a program common to all commodity development programs. In Section 4 it describes and lists permissible and prohibited use of the funds, including specially prohibiting the use of the checkoff funds for lobbying purposes. And that has been, even though at the national level they could not use it for lobbying purposes, but some feel...people felt that was being misused. It requires that an annual report of activities funded by the program, and prescribes the information to be contained in the report. Section 7, it imposes the assessment of \$1 per head, paid by the seller of the livestock, and it provides the proceeds to be collected...for collection of the assessment. I'm sorry...it provides the processes for collection of the