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

February 16, 2005 LB 150

cost us? According to the fiscal note it's a \$12 million expenditure. Is this just going to create a cash fund where there's going to be revenue and expenditure? And can you explain to me who is going to administer the program? Is it going to be the same outfit that is doing it right now? And at what expense of that \$12 million?

SENATOR KREMER: For...the expense for administration? I can find that out in their report, because they have to report that, the Beef Council. Really, the overview would be by the Department of Agriculture, but they would contract with our existing qualified beef council, which meets all requirements, that...and their producer...board is all producers. They then dispense of the money. And I'm trying to find out here just how much they use for administration. it's in their report. And our bill, too, it requires to come back and report with all that, all their expenditures, the cost of administration and everything else, that they have to answer back to the Department of Agriculture and make that known publicly at the time. So maybe sometime if I find that, I'll tell you what the administration costs are in my time, then, so.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you, Senator Kremer. This is a concern of mine, because, you know, if we're going to respectfully submit the \$1 per head, and if it brings in \$12 million, what percentage of that \$1 per head is going to be utilized in administrative cost, and what percent of that \$1 is going to be realistically used in the promotion of our product? Those are things that really do concern me. If it's going to cost, you know, 50 cents of that \$1 in administration, we're realistically not...we're only getting 50 cents worth of value in the promotion of our product. Yes, they're doing the job. But I like to see things done that would not require as much And in respect to, you know, it's a administrative cost. voluntary one, I think producers are in agreement to that. The concern that I have with the voluntary one -- and we had the same situation in the pork producers years ago -- that some of the larger producers will request the refund, because, you know, they do sell a lot of cattle. Means a lot of dollars to those people. But in the testimony that was given at the hearing, you know, some of the larger producers are in favor of this. And I