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

February 16, 2005 LB 150

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. That solves the problem then.

SENATOR KREMER: That's it.

SENATOR BEUTLER: All right. Secondly, the authority of the Director of Agriculture. Is it envisioned that, by and large, the operations of and the decision making with respect to the expenditure of the fees will be contracted out to a...basically, a private entity, a nonprofit corporation? Is that accurate?

SENATOR KREMER: And it designates it has to be a qualified, because there's certain criteria that our Beef Council had to meet in order to be qualified by that. And one thing is that it's a producer...the board is all producers. And it has to meet the requirements for disclosure of what all happens, and reports back. And, yeah, elected producers.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, let me try to define what I'm thinking in a little different way. The contract...if the director is going to contract out most of the job here, they can contract it out with any entity? Is that accurate?

SENATOR KREMER: Yes. But it does...we do state, a...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR KREMER: ...qualified...I mean, I don't know what that would all entail. But then they could go out to anything. But this is already set up now, and it's kind of the logical place to go, rather than start up some whole new procedure and group to do it. And whether you come back with the same thing or not, when it's a producer board and you're elected by producers and it's a producer program funded by producers.

SENATOR BEUTLER: You mean you would expect the director would set up certain qualifications for those who...well, would this be open to a bid process or not? It would...

SENATOR KREMER: Maybe I don't understand. A bid to who does...who...?