

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

February 16, 2005 LB 150

don't...the cattle industry doesn't use LB 775 money. We don't have any EPIC fund money. We're using our own money. And now, because it's been challenged that some people don't like the way it's being spent, you even have an opportunity to get the money back. There's been some discussion that you should have a referendum every so often. If you can get a refund and if 90 percent of the people are asking for a refund back, you better wake up, because there's something wrong. So it in itself is kind of a referendum right there. Like I said, the industry does not use LB 775 money; the ethanol industry does. And I'm all for the ethanol industry, and I want to have more of them, and I think it's great for the beef industry. The checkoff that's going toward the EPIC fund is a separate checkoff. It's not the checkoff part that the beef board gets...I mean, the Corn Board. The Corn Board has a checkoff of their own that they use for promotion, research, and education. We've added to that. I don't think it would be appropriate to take this fund that's to be used for three things--promotion, education, and research, and it designates how that can be used--that we would take part of that money, unless the Beef Council would decide that this is something that would really promote our industry, promote our product. When Senator Schrock said that it makes another \$10 or \$8 profit per head, that might be true. But it also might just prevent to be \$8 less loss sometimes, too, so. If you feed cattle, you know that you don't make money all the time, so. Those are just a few points. And I didn't write them all down; I probably missed something. But I'd like to give the balance of my time back to Senator Beutler, and he could pursue the questions that he had. I'll try to answer them, too. I would like to give my time back...the balance of my time, to Senator Beutler.

SENATOR JANSSEN PRESIDING

SENATOR JANSSEN: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Janssen. Senator Kremer, thank you very much. Let me go back and be sure I understand how this all is working. The director may designate and contract with an entity.