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February 24, 2005 LB 71

the committee amendments, AM0343, to LB 71. There are no lights on, Senator Kremer. There are some lights on. Senator Stuhr. There is, rather.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I do appreciate the discussion that we have had this morning, and I do support the committee amendments, because I believe that you will find in the committee amendments now some accountability that we did not previously have. And also, it adds a new section to provide the recapture authority in the event grant funds are obtained fraudulently or misappropriated by the recipient. Again, this builds in some accountability that we did not have before. So I certainly wholeheartedly do support the committee amendments. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Any further discussion on the committee amendments? Further discussion? Senator Kremer, you're recognized to close on the committee amendments.

SENATOR KREMER: Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members of the body. We're back now to where we really have three basic parts to the committee amendments. The first one, the primary administrative responsibilities falls with the Department of Economic Development, rather than jointly with the Agriculture Department. It also removes the distribution that 25 percent had to go a certain way; 25 another place. It removes that so the awards can be granted more on the meritorious projects of the...of all those that are submitted. The third thing that it now does is gives ability to recapture if somebody does something that's fraudulent, or has maybe not used the money in an appropriate way, that we can recapture that. So hopefully that we've made the bill better than what even LB 1348 was, even though we think it was very successful. And from there, it will be up to the Legislature on how much we want to appropriate to that. With that, I will close on my...the committee amendments, and ask you to advance the bill. It came out of committee with no opposition. And there was nine that testified in favor, and zero in opposition. It was advanced out of committee 7 to 0. So, with that, I'd like to ask for your support in advancing the amendment.