

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

March 11, 2005 LB 441

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Senator Kremer. Senator Fischer.

SENATOR FISCHER: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I, too, rise in support of Senator Louden's amendment to LB 441. As Senator Kremer stated, there is currently no advantage for beef producers not to rib brand, because we don't receive any more money from packers for our hides if there's a hip brand instead of a rib brand. Also, it is the choice of the individual producers where they want to brand their cattle. And I realize Nebraska Cattlemen, they do have the Beef Quality Assurance Program, which does not encourage rib branding for the purposes of selling hides, but I believe as long as the individual producers are not themselves receiving any benefit from the packer for the hide, there is no reason that we should eliminate rib branding. So I do rise in support of the amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK PRESIDING

SENATOR CUDABACK: Further discussion? (Visitors introduced.) Further discussion on the Louden amendment? There are no lights on, Senator Louden. You may close, if you care to.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Thank you, Mr. President. Just a short word. I want to thank the senators that have supported this, and this is truly something that will help the livestock industry on our day-to-day maintenance and working with our cattle in western ranches. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Heard the closing on AM0351. All in favor of adoption of AM0351 vote aye; opposed, nay. Record please, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of Senator Louden's amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: The Louden amendment has been adopted.

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill, Senator.