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FLOOR DEBATE

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us authorizing money to such an organization; that it's not necessarily controlled by one organization but could go, depending on the Department of Agriculture's decision, it could go to more than one organization or a different organization; and generally speaking, is more under the arm of the Department of Agriculture. Having said that, the bill picks up on the idea of a qualified entity and defines what a qualified entity is. It defines it as a beef promotion entity, and has some additional explanation of what the purpose of a qualified entity would be, and then substitutes that language in there and allows the Department of Agriculture to choose the appropriate qualified entity to be their representative for carrying out the programs that are the subject of this whole idea. It indicates that this entity won't be appointed forever, that the contract shall be for a term of five years. It also, another very important item for me, it required an independent audit, and then it also requires that whatever entity is picked, that they are required to put into their bylaws provisions that are substantially equivalent to the Open Meetings Act that we use with respect and employ with respect to every public agency in this state. So overall, they will be treated with some additional strings attached to them, and that is part of the price they pay for getting authorization, government approval, and government authentication of the organization that they are putting in place. Again, I think Senator Kremer is all right with these amendments, and I'd be glad to answer any questions that I can. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. You've heard the opening on AM0817. (Visitors introduced.) On with discussion, Senator Kremer, on the Beutler amendment.

SENATOR KREMER: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I just want to stand and support Senator Beutler's amendment. In fact, I cosigned onto the amendment. And it does change some things that I think make it better. We did refer to the beef council which is better if it's called a qualified entity that's elected the same way. It has the same qualifications as what the beef council does now but...and it also is for a five-year period. Really, the council or the qualified entity, whoever it might be, does have to report back