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

March 29, 2005 LB 150

product. They're going to have their supply of cattle. They're going to sell their product and they're going to benefit from They may not have room to slaughter a small the profits. producer's product, the guys that have just maybe a couple hundred head in the feed yard. They may never be able to market them. Yes, they will be able to market them whenever the larger packing plants decide that they want to take them in or don't have enough cattle of their own or people that they have contracts with. So I think this is something that we've got to be very careful as to what we're really trying to do. And if we get to the point where we have it where it's taken off before, if we're...if it's never taken off, people that have, you know, cattle going to the barn and they want all of their dollars and they're not going to contribute a penny towards advertisement, research, and development, you know, then I think we're in real trouble. I think...I think we need to look, you know, what are the benefits of these small dollars that are taken out of the check. Who's going to pay for the research, the development and the advertising of the product that we raise? I think there's one thing that we need to also remember, that...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: ...that we, we as livestock producers, our best friend needs to be the one that slaughters the animal and the retailer that sells the animal, that sells the cut. We don't do it as beef producers. So I think we need to take a real close look at this. I think the voluntary part of it, you know, the way it is planned in this bill, the original bill, Senator Kremer's bill that would, you know, have the money checked off, if you request a refund within a certain period of time and you would receive...then you would receive the refund, I think that's the only way that it will realistically work. But if we have it taken off before the point of sale we just as well scrap the whole program and just drop everything. So, with that, I'll return the balance of my time back to the Chair. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Stuthman. Further discussion? Senator Wehrbein, followed by Senators Chambers, Louden, Hudkins, and Kremer. Senator Wehrbein.