

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

March 29, 2005 LB 150

things will be done, but we have a mechanism in place that assures that. I have a brochure here that tells all the many things that have been done...many may have that, maybe you don't...talking about the research, talking about the response to BSE, talking about the response to E. coli, talking about the response to, Senator Kremer mentioned, the flatiron steak that was developed in research. I won't go into all the details, but I did judge a culinary contest just two weeks ago tasting products, all...and I had a very interesting time doing that. We're promoting those with chefs, we're...I was on a worldwide...on an overseas venture, like many of you have been, to promote beef in foreign countries, particularly the Far East. Those are all done also by Nebraska Beef Council. I don't want to leave the impression that they sent me, but they did...they are working in the European community, they're working in the Far East with chefs, with the public, with consumers over there, promoting this product. I ask you how that's going to get done if we don't voluntarily do some things and support the industry ourselves. And it doesn't make any difference whether it's corn or wheat or soybeans or beef or pork. This is an opportunity for us to pool our resources. How much can each one of us do individually?

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Not very much. But when we band together and use our dollars collectively and do it with a majority vote that we agree on what is to be promoted, I can't help but think that it's...we're all better off for it, particularly the industry. And so doing...going Senator Chambers' route with the amendment is simply going to...when the people see, well, he's not doing it, I'm not doing it. Take it to everyday life. When somebody is getting away with something or not doing their support, say, well, why should I work so hard if everybody else is starting to slack? Why should I work so hard if they're pulling their money out? And that's what's going to happen. This is not a restrictive policy, in terms...a 30-day is a compromise Senator Kremer worked out. You get your money back by 15 days after that. And it seems like when you...if you really believe in the good of the industry, and most of them say they do,...