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

March 29, 2005 LB 150

collecting 1.5 percent of their checkoff, and it should be about several million. They have about 929 million bushels of corn in Indiana and would collect about \$4.6 million, and the way that is with opting out or opting in, they're only collecting about \$65,000 to \$75,000. If we...this would happen with the beef checkoff, instead of collecting \$7.5 million to \$8 million, to \$9 million, we would be collecting just a portion of that, about \$300 and...\$137, if you use that same percentage. Then it's not worth to anybody anything. And I think Senator Stuthman even mentioned this. If we would have it people could...had to opt then we just as well do away with the bill. And if we do that, then we just as well...then we'll do away with corn checkoff, with the wheat checkoff, with the soybean checkoff. And all these checkoffs are producers' money that's really promoting the economic development in the whole state and the economic viability of the whole state. When you take industry, like agriculture, and you have the corn and soybeans and all the promotion that they do, plus the research and the education, if we do away with all that money, then where is it going to come We're going to be hurting our whole state, not just the beef industry.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR KPEMER: Okay. The...we did see some other information that I can't remember, Maryland or some university did some study on what kind of return that we get from the checkoff, and they estimated that the producer themselves got about a 2 percent increase in their...in their...in the profits or the sales of the livestock, and at 2 percent, a steer that's ready to be slaughtered is worth about \$1,200, and if you think 2 percent of that, that's \$24. That shows a \$1 investment gets a \$24 return. That money doesn't...I mean, it might go in the producer's pocket, but that's spent right in our small towns and our...and really adds to the whole economy. And if you...you always hear that 7...that...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: Thank you.