

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

March 29, 2005 LB 150

people into the country. The beef industry isn't any different. They need some kind of a tool so that they can promote it. Nebraska is one of the leaders in the beef industry, so Nebraska is going to have to be a leader to promote it. If that Supreme Court strikes down the checkoff program as we know it, Nebraska will probably come up with something that will take the place of it. We had something that took the place of it before there was a federal mandated checkoff, and we can certainly do it again. Before, when we had it, it was a...worked the same way. If you didn't want it, you'd get your money back. It wasn't until the later years that...when the national was mandated, that it was harder to get your money back. There was many people that took them to court over it. And of course, it was a national mandated checkoff, and people were dissatisfied the way it was handled. They were dissatisfied with some of the associations that got into the operation of the fund and deciding how to spend the money. So consequently, this is what we come down to. As I've stated before, the people that have challenged the thing in court weren't producers. They were the people that were selling the cattle. So we have to think about that. And this is something that I think we have to promote. Somewhere along the line, we're going to need a checkoff program in Nebraska, and you're going to have to decide how you want to do it. But when Senator Chambers says it's got to be plum axed because it's unconstitutional, I don't agree with that. And I think we need something to promote it. The next thing, are you going to do away with the tax on...in motels and...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR LOUDEN: ...hotels? So we'll have to decide whether, is that an unfair tax, and will somebody be able to challenge that? So, there's all kinds of promotions out there, and this is just one of many. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Further discussion on FA131? Senator Chambers, there are no further lights on. You're recognized to close.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President, friends all. This amendment is an amendment to mine. This that I'm asking to be