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FLOOR DEBATE

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preemption of similar state price reporting laws. So, since the federal...the Congress passed the law to form the act, the state of Nebraska was preempted from our individual state mandatory price reporting. The \$54,000 was put back into General Funds and our program was discontinued. At the time that the Congress passed the federal law, it was for a period of five years, so five years was up this year and on September 30 the federal provision of price...mandatory price reporting was discontinued. It was discontinued. Should have gone back then on a state mandated price reporting, but we were not in any position to go ahead. We did not have the personnel. We did not have the finances to do that. But most of the packers are, if not all of them, are still...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR KREMER: ...still voluntarily reporting the prices, I think maybe because they think it will be reenacted again, and I think most people feel like it would be and some thought it would be by now reenacted. So as we got together with the industry leaders and the Department of Agriculture this summer, we thought it would be good to put into place some time lines should two things happen: one, if the department or if the Congress fails to reauthorize the Livestock Reporting Act prior to December 1, or what happens if they do reauthorize it for another five years and it's discontinued later? We put in the December 1 because we wanted to have time that the federal government could work on the reauthorization, plus we did not want our Department of Agriculture to go to all the work and expense to get a program up, going, only to find that they reauthorized it and then we'd wasted all that time and money and come back. So we're leaving it up till...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator.

SENATOR KREMER: I'm sorry.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Kremer. Members, I've been told it's a little noisy in the back of the room, so please try to show respect and keep the noise down. Thank you. Mr. Clerk, announcement?