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February 23, 2006 LB 975

pressure the other way. So I hope that's reasonable. I think there's some people with their lights on that have some very important things to say, so with that, I will conclude my remarks.

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

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. Senator Chambers, I'm puzzled. I'm puzzled. We've talked a lot about the issues of size and scale and economics, but as I recall, you have railed against farm programs and payments to farmers in this body many times, and this is...this is the other side of that coin. If we're going to compete, we've got to have size and scale. And, I mean, I've heard you talk in the past about wanting to do away with farm programs and so forth and so on, and that farmers are on the dole and we get our money from the mailbox. But this is one area in the livestock industry particularly, and it's also somewhat true in crops, but where you need the size of scale to compete to cover the overhead, and that's really all this is about. And Senator Schrock has talked a lot about that, about the need to do that. And that's the frustration of livestock producers, is we've come into the size of having the control facilities available, and you just can't justify it on a small scale. And so this is an effort to do that and to be sure that the money is well...is, before it's spent, that there's some guarantee that you'll be able to stay in business. And so, to me, it's just the opposite side of what...the alternative to farm payments is to have producers compete on their own in the free market and survive. And that's what, in essence, livestock people have done. They take the ups and the downs and spread their costs, their fixed costs, with greater numbers. Most of us don't necessarily want to do that, but it's a fact of life if you're going to compete in the ag economy. So part of that, I think, is a lot of the reasoning behind this, this bill, is to have some assurance that once you spent your money that it will be well...that it will have been useful and you'll be able to stay in business and cover your costs. And it's in the hands of local control yet, but it's recognized the fact of life that we have to do some of