

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

March 2, 2006

LB 856

SENATOR SCHIMEK: And should release that information?

SENATOR FISCHER: I don't know if they should release it in all cases. I think if the department and the state veterinarian have been able to control the event,...

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: One minute.

SENATOR FISCHER: ...it wouldn't be necessary to put that out for the public to even know about. You're controlling your industry, you're controlling your business, you're able to contain and control a disease outbreak. I don't...I don't know if that presents a danger to the public necessarily.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: I'm just thinking about what happened at the national level when it was not disclosed that there was another case of mad cow disease and there was a lot of, kind of, hysteria over that, and I don't want that to happen here.

SENATOR FISCHER: Right, and I don't think it will. When you talk about mad cow or BSE, that's entirely different than talking about a disease outbreak in a herd of cattle or in a feedlot. BSE, it's...I can get on my soapbox here as a producer, it's never been found in meat. It's never been found in meat. I firmly believe the public reacts...

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Time, Senator.

SENATOR FISCHER: ...too strongly to these rumors.

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the body. Just a couple comments. Senator Fischer did an excellent job explaining that, but it might be appropriate, if they determined disease somewhere, that you would have to disclose that to a group of veterinarians that could respond to it. So it doesn't mean necessarily just to the public, but you can even disclose that there is BSE or some disease or something came up in some meat, but you don't necessarily have to disclose the premise that it came from. That should be the response of