

HB 1496 -- BEEF COMMODITY MERCHANDISING PROGRAM

SPONSOR: Reiboldt

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass by Consent" by the Committee on Agriculture Policy by a vote of 15 to 0.

This bill repeals the provision that prohibits the state from collecting fees under the Beef Commodity Merchandising Program in excess of the amount credited against the obligation to pay any federal assessments.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this bill would allow the cattlemen in the state to vote to increase the state portion of the beef checkoff fee. The checkoff funds are used to market beef products in the state. Currently, the state may only charge the \$1 fee set by the national Beef Checkoff Program, of which half goes to the national program and half to the state program.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Reiboldt; Missouri Cattlemens' Association; and Missouri Farm Bureau.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.