

Vickers is entitled to close.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President, members, the issue, I think, is very clear. The issue is whether or not a producer of the commodities in this state, that we have checkoff programs for, is entitled to get those dollars back, is entitled to ask for a refund. For those people that say this is not going to work, I refer you once again to what happened in other states. It has worked. I refer you to what happened with the pork industry, it has worked. Let me tell you that the program is still mandatory as far as taking the dollars from your pocket to start with is concerned. The program is still mandatory. For those livestock feeders that are concerned because it didn't work before when it was totally voluntary, it's not going to be voluntary now either. I'm not going to have any choice whether those dollars are taken from me or not. They are going to take them. I've got to make some action to get them back. Now if the commodity checkoff boards are afraid they're going to do such a damn lousy job that the majority of us are going to ask for the dollars back, then they probably ought to get them back. Maybe the bill that I introduced, to kill all of them, would have been the best thing to do. I cannot understand how the farm groups of this state, including the commodity groups, such as the livestock feeders where there is a number of them down here today, can say to us they don't want it refundable because if that is the case... I can tell you right now if we make it mandatory, and if we say they are going to affect legislation, there isn't much need for a Livestock Feeders Association anymore, there isn't much need for the Stock Growers Association anymore. I don't see any need for those kinds of organizations at all, and I'm in the livestock business. Let me tell you how it works. I used to be a member of the Stock Growers Association, until I got in this body, and the issue of the vet school came up. For three years the Stock Growers Association used my money to lobby against my position. I finally said, you know that is dumb, I'm stupid, and I quit belonging to it. But now we are about to say as far as checkoff dollars are concerned that that same thing could happen, but I couldn't ask for my dollars back. I just want to make one clear point, and I hope the press picks this up, and I hope those people representing those commodity groups are listening good because I'm going to come in, if this amendment isn't adopted, and if LB 60 is passed, I'm going to introduce a