

some other livestock producers are. All this amendment does is make the provisions in the beef checkoff program consistent with all the other checkoff programs that we have and that provision is that these funds, these dollars collected to be used for promotion of the product, advertising and so forth, are not used to influence legislation. So the amendment would add on page 11, line 13, following the word, "office", or to influence legislation, period. And that is the exact language that is in the other check-off programs. It seems to me that when dollars are collected from a mandatory program such as this they are a tax dollar that I really have no choice as to whether to contribute or not and I believe that I should contribute them and I believe that they should be mandatory and I do support that concept as a beef producer. But I do believe that dollars that I contribute to an organization or organizations to influence legislation or to lobby for me as a producer should be dollars that I contribute voluntarily to those various organizations. So for that reason I feel very strongly that I need to get this language in this bill so that the stockgrowers, the livestock feeders, the Farm Bureau, the Farmers Union and various other farm organizations that I may or may not belong to at my discretion can continue to do the job of lobbying and influencing legislation as they should be doing, it seems to me. Now I know one argument that I have heard is that but we're not planning on using these dollars on the state scene, we're planning on using these on the national scene. Well I happen to personally be a member of the National Cattlemen's Association and my membership in that organization is basically for that purpose so that that organization can serve as my lobbying voice in Washington, D.C., or various other places and I believe very strongly the same philosophy should apply there that I donate those dollars voluntarily at my own discretion and that these dollars then that are taken to be used for promotion and development of the product should be used strictly for that. So with that simple explanation, Mr. President, I would move for the adoption of my amendment.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I would just indicate that I visited with a large number of ranchers about this bill and I have also discussed with a large number of individuals this concept of lobbying and I think most of them concur, most of the ones I visited with, concur that this amendment should be adopted. The one point I would make is that this bill allows for a maximum of \$9.2 million to be raised according to the fiscal note in the future. Of course it doesn't start off that much