

to the beef board. I think they are doing a very good job of trying to do their job. I would dispute the fact that they are laid back. In fact, I have had several comments from them over the years where they have been very worried about the decisions they have made because they considered them very far-reaching. They want to be fair to all parts of the industry, and I think they take their job very, very seriously. And so I would dispute the fact that they are laid back and don't do it conscientiously, particularly in more recent years when they are elected from across the state by districts. So I support this legislation and would be happy to answer any more questions that you may have, Senator Schmit.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Rogers.

SENATOR ROGERS: I might just elaborate a little bit on what Senator Wehrbein said, that I don't know how many of you in here are aware of the National Livestock and Meat Board. That is another organization that all livestock entities, packing companies, anything connected with the meat industry, has a seat on that particular board. Some of the beef dollars go to that. Also some of the pork dollars go to that, and every state has a representative on that. I have served on both of those boards for several years. We talk about the \$1 checkoff, a tax, or whatever Senator Schmit wants to call it. I think most of us in here would agree that the dairy people have done great things, maybe not right today, they are not too happy, of their checkoff. I am not a dairyman, but I know that the percent that they contribute towards their checkoff is many times greater than pork and beef contributes for the value of that particular animal. I might just mention one thing that happened years ago. Nebraska pork producers, I think a lot of you know Dr. Mandigo out to the university. Years ago Nebraska pork producers made the first grant to Dr. Mandigo. Eventually, that showed up in McDonald's. We done work with McDonald's. That is where the McKibb got started was restructured pork. We put in a few dollars and McDonald's put in a lot of dollars, but those are some of the things that the checkoff has done, and I ask for the adoption of the amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Rogers. Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. I just wanted to ask a couple of questions of Senator Rogers for the record, please.