

Commission. Again, that was uncontroversial in the committee and on the floor, so far at least, has been uncontroversial as well. That part, only that part would remain and then the bill would advance and be on its merry way. A couple of points I'd like to say, Senator Chambers, this one obviously is a little bit more logical than the one previously which would be why you'd be supporting this particular amendment and I appreciate that. I also want to say that I appreciate the body taking the time to discuss the matter because it was an issue that I have spoken with the cattle industry about. It was an issue that I expressed that there would be some opposition to it, but I also appreciate the body taking the time because I think it was a good discussion. I think the Legislature's decision was clear, it was decisive and so I think at this point any discussion in the industry about making this change can be put to rest as the Legislature has decided this is not a change that we wish to make at this time and probably not in the near future as well, and I think that message needed to be sent. I do think the things that were stated about the good things that the cattle industry is doing in the State of Nebraska is also helpful. It certainly is true and at this point I would like to ask that the amendment be agreed to and the Legislature can go on to other business.

SPEAKER BAACK: Discussion on the amendment, Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members, I hesitated to visit or to return to that issue. We weren't able to get some information prior to the last discussion, but I guess just I wanted to say for clarification, especially to the attorneys in here, that one of the reasons for this bill is the frustration many producers feel about losses of livestock. Your point is being taken probably, is well taken about the consistency of penalties and the consistency of the damage, or not damages, but at least incarceration and that type of thing and the felonies, but the problem is that theft insurance is very prohibitive in cost. Theft is hard to prove in a case of losses of livestock and so once again with the loss of livestock, the producer is stuck with no way to pass off the losses. In contrast to shoplifting and many other issues that were raised here today, most stores are able to cover that some way with their cost structure or whatever but once again here, in the rural areas, there is no way to cover the loss of a calf, no way to cover that inventory loss and so in desperation many producers reach out, trying to figure out some way to make those losses, or at