

Those members are appointed. And they operate in a much different fashion in terms of procedure, how they operate their budgets and so on. By and large, most of the county fairs in this state are done by agriculture societies. Agriculture societies is probably one of the oldest laws in the State of Nebraska. In fact, those societies were created even before the State of Nebraska was. They have been operating since the 1860's, much under the same procedures as they did at that time. And an agriculture society has no rules or regulation as to its membership. Some of the board...some of the agriculture societies throughout the State of Nebraska have lifetime appointments. And so they use these proxy votes to just perpetuate the board. Now we have a couple of options. One of the options is to do away with agriculture societies in general and put them all into this elected status and the reports. Quite frankly, that would upset the apple cart so hard, I don't believe that Senator Schellpeper's intention, nor mine as a cosponsor, that we want to do that. But what we want to do is to try to make the agriculture societies at least come to the point, because in the old days they didn't expend a whole lot of money. Today, they expend millions of dollars, and they do them for capital construction projects, if...to which they don't have to report to anyone, or gain anyone's approval, or really allow those sorts of things to be done. Ninety-nine percent of the people who serve on these agricultural societies have the best interest...absolutely the best interest of the county fair at heart. I think that these people are dedicated. They don't get paid to do these things. They do it as a labor of love, and we want to continue to perpetuate the county fairs. However, I think the time has come when we're starting to spend millions of dollars for buildings, that those members at least have some responsibility to show how much money they have. Because in some counties, you don't do that. But the proxy voting that does occur, or the possibility for proxy voting perpetuates boards...well as I said, one board that I know of has lifetime appointments. The other one, you have to pay five or six bucks to belong to the agriculture society, so anyone can belong, but they don't have to send out notice of when the meetings are. So if they get enough proxy votes, they can just kind of perpetuate this society to go along, and I...I don't think that there should be great disagreement. Senator Wehrbein, I thank you for that amendment and I would support that.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Senator Wehrbein, do you wish to be recognized again on this amendment?