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FLOOR DEBATE

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of land owned or leased by someone other than the employer for the production of agricultural crops, fruit, or other horticultural products, or 40 percent or more of the employee's (sic) annual gross revenue is derived from the keeping or feeding of animals not owned by the employer for the production of livestock or livestock products. And you thought you were making things simpler? This basically continues the complexity and the irrelevant kinds of considerations that were in the court decision. And what's worse about this particular provision that I'm suggesting that we strike is that it makes it possible, regardless of the number of workers, regardless of the number of workers, if you own your own livestock or are doing your own farm operation, no matter how many people you employ, you're going to be exempt from the workers' compensation requirement. That is very different from what exists today. What exists today is that most of the large livestock operations recognize themselves as a commercial industry under the court's decision and are, in fact, and do have workers' compensation, so that if you do not strike the provision that I'm asking you to strike, all of these large hog operations, for example, that already have workers' compensation, would have the option of getting rid of it. And so, from my perspective, we would be moving backwards. We would be telling people, who can afford to protect these workers, that they no longer have to protect the workers, and that is a very bad direction to be going in. As they become larger we should recognize that they're more like other businesses and that they can afford to protect their workers. They do it now. They're not going out of business. If we want to protect the small people, we can do that with the remaining criteria in the bill which has to do with the number of workers. So if you want a bill that's clear and if you want a bill that draws...that has some kind of balance but does not simply say, by and large, everybody who runs a hog operation doesn't have to have workers' compensation, in fact, I think under the corporate farming provisions in our constitution all of these large hog operations have to own their own hogs, so we would basically be saying, large or small, able or not able, you don't have to have workers' compensation if you keep this provision in the bill which I'm suggesting that you strike. So this is not theoretical. This is very real and I think very practical and would serve us now and would serve us in the