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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 754

county. They didn't have a lot of support, it didn't seem like at the time, and they moved to Scott City, Kansas, and now...it was west of Culbertson, is where the dairy was located, south side of the Highway 34 there, west of Culbertson, and now Culbertson High School is in danger of closing next year. And I continually try and remind people that what they had there was 20 jobs. They may not have all been new people moved into the area, but it was about a \$7 million investment. Would have gone on the tax rolls, a lot of it; potentially 20 new jobs, but certainly 20 jobs; increase the price of grain and forage and so on. And they basically have two, three families that were not even as close to the dairy site as what I have a home there, they weren't that close to it; basically chased these people out. This does not stop the frivolous lawsuits, but it does at least make an attempt to designate some livestock friendly counties, which I still consider my area out there livestock friendly, although they've not been friendly toward some hog confinements and obviously this dairy. And we've had a couple other dairies that we were working with at the time, saw what happened to the...Soujquist was their name, they're from Minnesota. Saw what happened to them and they said, we don't want to fool around out here and waste our time; we're going to Kansas. And they have moved down to around the Scott City area. So we need to do something to at least give some indication that these...to these people that we are not just tuning them out completely, and I think this bill does that. I keep looking back at the site that they had bought. They had started watering it to move the dirt. They had their water wells drilled and so on and, actually, they had their carousel equipment and seed containers there in the county. They had not unloaded them or taken them out of the containers. That's how close we were to having this dairy being built there, and with the bad publicity we received over that, we just simply haven't been able to convince anyone yet that we're a livestock friendly county. So I support the bill, the amendment. I think it's a step in the right direction. I think we need to try and appease some of these folks that think this is a major, major change in what we're doing, and it is not. It still has to go through the zoning process. The county commissioners have to approve the zoning. They have to have the DEQ permit. But it does at least indicate to some of these people that I think would still look