

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

May 5, 2003

LB 754

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Not that I see.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Okay. Thank you. I just...I think everybody feels that...and all of the e-mails I get is that the people are thinking that we're really doing this so that we can allow the big producers to come into the state, the mega operators. The thing in my local county, we have a couple of large operators there. These are individual people that started out from scratch as very small producers, and just continually expanded and moved ahead. And they get to a point where people start to feel that they have probably stepped on too many toes, or something like that, and that's the right...the reason they got ahead. And the reason they got ahead is because they took advantage of things that a lot of people did not take advantage of. And they've moved ahead. And I hold nothing against these people. The thing...the agriculture and the livestock has changed so drastically in the last ten years. I think small operations, there's a place for them. But realistically, there's not enough profit in those operations. There's not enough profit in anything, unless you've got some volume. It's just like grain farming. You can't make it on 80 acres, 160 acres, 600 acres, or even 1,000 acres anymore. You have to have large volume, because you make very few cents per bushel and you need a lot of bushels. Same thing with a livestock operation. You can't make it on 20 cows anymore. You need to have three to four hundred cows. This is the change in the times. But I think there is a real future for young people on the farm. There's times and opportunity where they can work in cooperation with some of these larger operators, and feed out some of these hogs, feed out some of the cattle, or anything. But they can get some income for doing some work in conjunction with their farming operations. And it will save...what we really need to save is some of the younger people on the farms. So this, I think there is a real future. I've got two sons that farm with me. We do not have a very large hog operation anymore. But there is a future there that if we would put up a couple more buildings and contract with one of these farrowing operations to feed out the hogs, we could possibly generate a sizeable income for one of these...one of my sons and their family. So there is a future for it. But this is because of the things that have changed in the livestock industry. It's