

this bill kept repeating that they didn't want their tax money and I think that's probably a credible objection that they have no ability to pick and choose if indeed that checkoff board is influencing legislation in the improper way. This amendment, I want to point out, does limit influencing legislation. The committee felt that we should put a limit on it, that it shouldn't be open-ended so we did put a limit on it. And I think Senator Vickers has an amendment which will make this even a better proposal and I'm sure he will want to dwell on that further, but this amendment simply limits the percentage that influences legislation, and I think if we are going to reach those that make the difference, that perhaps those checkoff boards who have done a good job in their research and marketing should be allowed to at least go forward and testify and I think some have been requested to do so and are unsure of whether that is influencing legislation. So I think we should give them that capability and then I think we also should proceed with Senator Vickers's amendment and eliminate this from being a tax or a forced participation. With that I urge you to adopt the committee amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Eret, please.

SENATOR ERET: Mr. Speaker and members, I would like to point out that we have the discussion about whether the people would be represented in their views on this board and I'd like to remind you that these board makeups, on the Beef Board it is an elected board, and on the other commodity boards before a person from any of the designated districts for each of these commodities can be appointed, they must go out and secure petition signatures, I believe of at least 50 growers of that commodity. So we do have...the members of this board are accessible then by the growers to be talked to just like an elected official in conveying their views to him and I just wanted to make that clear to the body. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Rod Johnson, would you like to close on the committee amendments, please.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: I'd be happy to, Mr. Speaker. To be very brief I'd like to cover some of the points that have been mentioned here. A number of people have commented they have philosophical problems with this bill, and if you do, I suggest that you vote against the bill. However, if you