

several terms, Senator Jones, and the brand bill has had a rough and rocky road to get on the floor. I don't know if I've seen it on the floor prior to this session. But to take a provision like this, which was not heard by the committee, where the issue, itself, was not discussed, I think would be an inappropriate thing to do. But in addition to that policy consideration, some of the practical matters that Senator Jones mentioned had occurred to me, and since he stated them well enough to make the picture clear, I won't repeat them. But I don't think it would be appropriate at this time to add this amendment, so I will also vote against it.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Well, Madam Chairman and members of the Legislature, I am going to oppose this amendment. I think we are with...we kind of closed the door after the horse has been stolen. The people in Howard County have already indicated to us by a vote of over 4 to 1, or at least 4 to 1, that they want this. This was a write in and this was a project that Senator Schmitt, and he asked these people to write to him or phone him, and he got 330 some responses that favored this as opposed to 90 who did not favor it. So I think the poll has already been taken. I don't think that what we've done here with this...I think to put this amendment, we take a step backwards. The way the law is set up today, these people have to come here and ask for support for an area to go into the brand committee, brand area, and we have that process. Now if we come back here, they've come and told us this, we've got this passed from committee, now if we go back and say, well, you didn't do it right, you have to do it over again, I don't believe that's what the process is about. So I would urge that you not support the amendment and go ahead and support the bill as it has been presented. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Before we proceed, I would like to call the senators' attention again to the south balcony. Special guests today of Senator Vrtiska are 18 twelfth graders from Pawnee City High School in Pawnee City, and they are accompanied by their teacher. Would you please rise and be recognized. Welcome to the Chamber. Thank you. Senator Schellpeper, you are next, followed by Senators Elmer, Hartnett, and Haberman. Senator Schellpeper.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you, Madam Chairman and members. I