

guess, on General File, Senator Jones said that he accepted an amendment like this. He said he could support this. Well, now, he comes in and says that he cannot support it. Some of the concerns that he has mentioned about the age limit, we already have crossed that when we discussed as far as having the checkoff funds increased. Everybody, if you own livestock, whether you are in 4-H or whatever your age, if you certify that you own livestock, you could vote because it is going to cost you money, and that's the way that was done there. I don't see how we are opening up anything new. I think there is being too much made out of this by the Secretary of State. We are not actually getting into a statewide election as he has been making some statements about, but, basically, all we are saying is that you go to the county extension office, you have five business days, you sign a piece of paper that states that you are an owner of livestock, and then you can vote yes or no. I don't think that the majority...in fact, I know the majority of the owners of livestock in Howard County do not want to be made part of the brand area. We had an Ag hearing up in St. Paul a year ago, and the majority of the people there do not want to be made part of it. Now I think some of the letters that have been passed out and have been signed are not legitimate livestock people. They just signed this letter. Anybody could have sent in a letter and said, well, I favor this. But in order to be legitimate, you should have to say that you have certified that you do own some livestock. But to come in and say that by a 4 to 1 vote the people in that county want to be made a part of the brand area, I think that's not really the way that it is up in that area. Because if you will talk to the individuals up there and not just this one group, you will find out that the majority of the people that have livestock are not willing to expand at this time. I am not saying that they don't want to expand into it maybe sometime down the road, but at this time, the hearing spelled that out when we had the Ag Committee hearing there a year ago, that they do not want to be made a part of the brand area at this time. So rather than to go in and put them in there, when the majority of the people do not, you know, to come out and say that there is 500 people, there are 500 families that support this, I don't think there is 500 families in the whole county that are involved in farming, let alone livestock. So you have to have people from the cities also coming in and saying that they want to be made part of it, and some of them don't even live in the county. So I think this amendment is a way to put it back on the local level. Let the local people decide whether or not they want in. But rather