

OKLAHOMA CITY â€” A referendum that would have increased the drop-off fee for cattle by \$1 per head was defeated, according to results announced Thursday by the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry. Members of the Oklahoma Cattlemenâ€™s Association voted down the measure, 55.6 percent to 44.3 percent, that would have raised the fee and generated an additional \$3.2 million to be used to promote beef sales. The effort was opposed by some ranchers, who sought out Montana-based Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund and the Organization for Competitive Markets to file an injunction to stop the vote. The proposal called for raising the fee from \$1 to \$2 per head sold. â€œWe were proud to stand with our Oklahoma members to ensure justice was carried out during this election,â€• said Bill Bullard, CEO of R-CALF USA. â€œIt is good to know that in America, if you stand up for what is right, you can still win.â€• The Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, which backs U.S. and Texas beef check-off programs, supported the measure. Oklahoma would have joined 15 other states, including Texas, who have adopted a state-level beef check-off program. â€œI am disappointed that the Oklahoma beef check-off referendum was swayed by outside activists and did not succeed,â€• said TSCRA President Richard Thorpe. â€œTexas cattle raisers have seen an immense benefit from their state-level checkoff program, and I had hoped that same success would be extended to Oklahoma producers.â€• Adam Daigle 918-581-8480 Follow Adam Daigle on Twitter at @adamdaigleTW Subscribe Daily Headlines Sign up! * I understand and agree that registration on or use of this site constitutes agreement to its user agreement and privacy policy.