

we're not. And it's one of those things you can give them some (inaudible) saying, well, I got it to Final Reading but, you know, close only counts in horseshoes and hand grenades and being close on this bill doesn't really give anybody much benefit. And I would certainly encourage the body to think long and hard. I'm going to vote no because I know in this particular year there simply is not going to be the money available to do everything we want to do. This is one of those things that we've cut it once, I think once you've cut it you're better off keeping it cut and I would encourage the body to vote no on advancement of the bill.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Moore.' We will now go to Senator Morrissey.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members, thank you, Senator Moore, for enlightening me on your thoughts. I'm sure 10,000 coyotes in the country also would thank you for that. Seriously, LB 142 is a problem. The problem of animal damage control is something that is serious in my district. You might not consider it serious. You don't think there is that many coyotes out there stealing sheep or skunks under the front porch or sparrows or crows or buzzards doing damage out there, but it is quite considerable. In the testimon,, we heard that there was \$37 million worth of damage per a report by Dr. Scott Hygnstrom with the Extension Service that was caused each year in Nebraska, \$37 million worth of damage caused by predators and other animals to crops and livestock in the state per year. So I think it is something that we need to consider. I think we should move it on and weigh it at the end with our priorities. I was talking to a number of farmers in my brother's gas station about this bill but we weren't speaking specifically about this bill, it was during a cold snap over Christmas and everybody seemed to be calving and I asked them how the calves held up during the extreme cold weather and the bitter winds. And they said that was no problem. One farmer, in particular my cousin, stated that his problem was the next morning he had to get out first thing in the morning and check the damage that the coyotes had done on his new calves. So it is a real problem and the animals do do a lot of damage and we just don't keep them down naturally like we used to. A lot of people used to go out and hunt coyotes and other predators and they just don't do that anymore with the cost of gas and the cost of furs going down. It just isn't feasible for them to do that anymore. So we're getting a real problem out there with our poultry production,