

community, for example, might have a bird population problem or a golf course might have a problem with gophers or ground hogs or any number of problems that might occur, they, if they're not in a participating county, the USDA's Animal Damage Control personnel cannot go there and solve that problem. A problem also confronted by many farmers and ranchers, in particular, is that in this state we have taken away a lot of the effective means that they have to control these population problems and so in order...we can go, I guess, two ways, give them back to the farmers and ranchers and individual people these means that they need to handle the problems or, number two, reinforce this program by putting a statewide investment in it. We are confronted with a problem that has been explained to us that there is a possibility that some federal funding that we're now receiving will be cut off or limited if we do not participate on a statewide basis. Under our plan or our vision, the program would cost \$324,000 and would have about, I think, 12 regions in the state which personnel would then go out and handle these predator problems that might occur. The bill was supported by a variety of agricultural groups, the Nebraska Wool Growers, the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Nebraska Cattlemen, Nebraska Farm Bureau, and Nebraska's Farmers Union, the Nebraska poultry industry. So I think a variety of these groups show that there is wide support for the program and I would like to see the program reinstated. And, unfortunately, as I said, we have been able to pass the bill out of this body but have not had much success with the executive branch. I would update you that I and Charlie Brown, who is the administrator of the program in Nebraska, and Wayne Davis, who is President of this Animal Damage Control Advisory Committee, I guess, have met with Governor Nelson and talked with him about this issue. And, as I said, I would like to see the bill at least get to Final Reading and then take its place in the list of priorities for this session and this body's action at that point. So I would ask for the advancement of the bill.

SPEAKER BAACK: Is there discussion on LB 142? Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Yes, Mr. President, and members...

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Moore, just one minute, please. (Gavel.) It's getting a little noisy in here, let's try and hold the conversation down so we can listen to Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: I don't know what to say. I didn't think