

is a start. I recognize that even if this amendment is adopted this afternoon, that there is still the subject of the Governor's veto pen to line-item veto this out, but I am willing to take that chance. As I said, I have another bill still pending on Final Reading with the other bills being held up for the A bills that would ask for substantially more money, but I thought that this would be at least an arbitrary figure that would be, hopefully, within the realm of providing some kind of state support, so I would move the amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Johnson. Senator Morrissey followed by Senator Elmer.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Madam President and members. I rise to support Senator Johnson's amendment, always have supported the Animal Damage Control Act and the funding of it on a state level. If memory serves me correctly, I think we saw some figures that showed crop damage and other damage from predators and other animals even higher than what Senator Johnson stated. I don't have my file with me here, but there were some pretty high numbers. A little concerned as the small amount what we could do with it, but I know we do have a lot of damage, a lot of predator damage in the southeast part of the state, sheep, calves, et cetera. When we discussed the bill originally, I talked about talking to some of the farmers in my area about the cold weather we were having, we were having a severe cold snap and everybody was calving, and I asked them if they weren't concerned if the cold weather would kill their calves. And they said that is no problem, they survive that. We have to go out in the morning and see what kind of damage the coyotes have done. Again, I think this is a very small investment at this time, that we should invest more, in my opinion. It does cost a lot in the long run, these predators and animal damage cost in the state. It is important to a lot of us and I'd urge you to take a look at the savings that we can realize from a small investment like this, and ask you to support it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Morrissey. Senator Elmer, followed by Senator Nelson and Cudaback. Senator Elmer.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Madam President. This is something that we've always tried to get something going on, and I would point out something that I don't believe either of the former speakers addressed. And that is that the animal damage control