

spread of disease? What can be done to prevent that from happening if this amendment is adopted and the bill is passed, or is there nothing directly addressing that, we're just hoping that such a thing will not occur?

SENATOR DIERKS: No, they have the authority to ban the import of these animals if there is a disease present. They can ban putting them in any particular part of the state. For instance, when they talk about ecological damage, we're not talking about disease damage at the time but ecological damage is that condition where you'd have a crossing of elk and red deer, for instance,...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Um-huh.

SENATOR DIERKS: ...and the resultant progeny is less than desirable,...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Um-huh.

SENATOR DIERKS: ...it provides a mutant that is not as good as either one of the original animals. This is called ecological damage. Same thing happens with white-tails and mule deer. So these things...if they have, for instance, a herd of elk in the wild they don't want red deer near those elk in the wild in this state. Now they've got a herd of elk that are under the control of the Game and Parks Commission up in Senator Wickersham's district. So they would, in that particular area they would not want red deer to be in that area because they can't control the movement of these animals that well and you could get some ecological damage that way.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So you feel that with this amendment, if it's added, there would be sufficient means to prevent or avoid the kind of things that we're discussing now?

SENATOR DIERKS: We think there's enough oversight with both of those, with the commission and with the Department of Agriculture to prevent that from happening.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay. Now, Senator Dierks, I know what a ratite is, but as you were talking, now I've heard some people refer to it as rat-faced thieves. What is a rat-eyed bird?

SENATOR DIERKS: Ah...