

it with you today is because it's suggesting that an item that for at least ten years has not been considered an appropriate state appropriation or a state level function is now once again apparently being suggested as a state level function. And I would like to argue most strenuously, especially now in an era when we're trying to figure out how to get the governments out of different activities, that this activity ought to be an activity of the local government or ought to be an activity of the individual business person. With regard to predator control, there was no request from any state agency for the money. There was no request from the Governor for the money. And, as I mentioned to you earlier, this has not been state...funded out of state funds for at least ten years. In fact, back in the mid-1980s we had a long and serious discussion about whether this was an appropriate state expenditure and it was decided that it was not and it hasn't been for ten years, and now, all of a sudden, once again, a particular kind of activity we are defining as a state function. The reason...and let me ask you to think about this just a minute. Let's look at how we regard weeds and how we regard insects, because, after all, whether you're talking about weeds or whether you're talking about insects, or whether you're talking about an animal on the more complex side of our categories of destructive animals, it's all about the same thing, isn't it? It's about plants or small animals or large animals that are a danger to crops or a danger to livestock. How do we treat weeds? Do we...do we fund weed control at the state level? No, we do not. If you're talking about the general kinds of weeds that are a nuisance in cornfields or wheat fields, we expect the individual landowner to take care of whatever danger there is to the crop because of weeds. Does the local government do...fund any of this weed control? No, it does not. Now there is a particular category that's called noxious weeds and under that particular category the county coordinates the elimination of noxious weeds but who pays for noxious weeds? Noxious weed control is paid for by the landowner, just as all other kinds of weed control are paid for by the landowner. So if the form of life that's jeopardizing your crop is a plant of any sort, then we say the individual landowner should take care of it as a cost of doing business. What about insects? Insects are obviously another form of life, obviously a form of animal life. The cost of insecticides, would anyone suggest that the cost of spraying insecticides on a field ought to be a state function, or that it even ought to be a local county government function? I think not. Why do we treat larger animals different than we treat