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FLOOR DEBATE

January 25, 2005 LB 20, 29

bill dealing with Game and Parks Commission and their ability to destroy the animals. Senator Kremer and I believe the two bills should be combined at this point. Amendment AM0028 contains the same provisions contained in LB 29, as it was amended by the committee. The committee amended the bill to include the emergency clause. The amendment allows the Game and Parks Commission and any of its agents to destroy any feral swine. It also makes the release of feral swine for purposes of sport, pleasure, amusement, or production of a trophy class...of a trophy, a Class II misdemeanor. The penalty for a Class II misdemeanor is six months imprisonment, or \$1,000 fine, or both. I believe Senator Kremer has correctly stated the situation we have in the state of Nebraska. We are an agricultural state. These wild pigs, whether they be domestic pigs that have gotten loose or whether they be the Eurasian boar that is imported in for hunting purposes, are not something we want roaming free in Nebraska. They have become a real pest in southern states and even...and even sometimes can be dangerous. A wild boar is not a critter that you want to mess with. I realize that this probably curtails some hunting opportunities we might have in Nebraska, but if you want to hunt a wild boar, I suggest you go to one of the southern states where they are a pest and they want to get rid of them. So, if you're going to barbecue, you better get your wild boar someplace else, because we don't want them in Nebraska. And thank you, Senator Kremer, for working with me on this issue. And I hope that you will adopt this amendment.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. You've heard the opening on AM0028, offered by Senator Schrock to LB 20. Open for discussion on AM0028. Senator Raikes, followed by Senator Hudkins. Senator Raikes.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I have a question, well, for Senator Kremer. You mentioned disease, and particularly the threat created by one of these wild pigs infecting, I think, a commercial hog herd. What about other animals? For example, there are wild turkeys. Can a wild turkey carry disease that would infect a commercial turkey herd? And if so, are the same procedures in place for turkeys as there are for pigs?