

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

January 25, 2005    LB 20, 29

SENATOR LOUDEN: Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members of the body. I was going to introduce an amendment to Senator Schrock's LB 29. I voted to advance that bill on in the committee and I think it's probably something that has to be addressed, and the purpose of it was, was that when there are feral swine, is how we're going to get rid of them. You can't just grab a load of corn and probably pull them into a yard and load them up and haul them off. So they will have to be hunted and destroyed. I would like to see them, if they are a problem, to be considered like some of the other predators or pests, sort of as coyote, fox and that sort of thing, such as your coyote don't have to have a season on to be hunted for. And that was what my amendment is all about, is to allow any person to destroy and dispose of a feral swine, and the commission also may authorize agents to destroy and dispose of feral swine. I think this would enhance the bill we have there. If there is a problem, it would put it so that people in their own neighborhood could do something about them if they have them in their neighborhood, and I think this is the direction we should go. Some of these problems can be handled locally, rather than hiring some Game Commission people or hiring agents to come in and destroy these animals. We already have predator animal control people in our district out in the western end of the state. The county has to pay for them. At the present time, the state does not fund any money for any type of control like this, so what you're doing is putting this kind of control on to the Game and Parks Commission, and I'm sure they will, if it gets to be a problem, they'll need funding in the future to take care of it. If you consider them just as wild animals that can be destroyed by the public, then this probably would take care of the problem for several years to come. I would like to see my amendment advanced. I think it helps LB 29, which Senator Schrock has turned it over into AM0028. I think it's something that needs to be done. It isn't anything that would destroy the idea of the bill. In fact, it would enhance the beginning of the bill. Whether or not the Game and Parks Commission, their concern was that somebody would use it as sport hunting, but on the other hand if an animal has to be destroyed, I don't know whether you call it sport or what, but it's no different than the coyote predator control programs we have and some of the other control programs we have, whether you're using rabid