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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Stuthman.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. On the initial onset, I felt I wasn't going to debate in this, but I have some concerns. My concerns are, maybe I'm not being sent in the right direction, but I'm concerned, you know, taking the domesticated swine and creating them in a year or two, turning them into the wild, and letting them revert back to being wild. Like Senator Chambers had just spoken, you know, these animals, you know, have never been in the wild. Yes, their ancestors many, many, many, many years ago were in the wild, a certain portion of them. But we have bred and worked with these animals to get them to where they're producing food for the people here in the world, and that is the reason for these pigs. I don't...I think it would be a real disaster if an individual took five or ten pigs out of your nice warm unit, where these pigs are raised, and turned them into the wild and let them fend for themselves. Realistically, I don't think they would hardly survive, but it is a possibility. We had an experience several years ago when there was a flood. Flood went through a hog unit. Pigs were scattered all over. One of the pigs was found on my farm. They only captured it about five months later and they had to catch it in a corral as it was down on a creek bank. That pig was very wild at that time. But I think...I think trying to create something for a sport, since there are not, you know, wild hogs or wild boars around in here, and we don't want any of those wild hogs around here, mainly because of diseases that are possibly transferred. There's no way that we can test these wild animals. You know, are they PRRS negative, PRRS positive? Are they carrying pseudorabies or what is all with these hogs? Because that is a major concern of confinement units and hog producers in the community at the present time. I don't like the fact that if a hog happens to jump out of a trailer on the way to market and it finds its way to an area where it's not very populated and it stays there, and that somebody just goes with groves of people and tries to shoot that animal, you know. I think it should be captured and taken and then processed for food. But I'm a little bit concerned about that also. I would realistically think that if the hog industry or the ones that want to develop the feral swine would