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

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SENATOR LOUDEN: Yes, I think so.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: First question is, I read in a <u>Lincoln Journal</u> Star article about your bill that the U.S. government, the U.S. Forest Service, actually, is in the process of doing a study on this issue, this problem, and the results of that are expected some time maybe this summer. Is that accurate?

SENATOR LOUDEN: Well, the input statements have to be in by April 18, which is this Friday, and then they have however many days it is to act on it, which I thought was until the 1st of June, or something like that.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: When you say the input statements, what do you mean?

SENATOR LOUDEN: Well, whenever the federal Forest Service or anybody has problems like that, they usually go out and solicit input from anyone that's...wishes to send them anything on the problem and what to do about it. And so they've been through that process since, I think, the 1st of January, and it was supposed to be due here. Those have to be in by April 18.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Okay. And do you anticipate that there will be any monies that come with any of the recommendations they might make?

SENATOR LOUDEN: From the federal people?

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Right.

SENATOR LOUDEN: I couldn't say on that. I have no idea what the Forest Service will decide to do on that. My observation would be it's a question of whether or not the Forest Service will control prairie dogs on forest land. I think that's mostly what their state...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Okay.

SENATOR LOUDEN: ...what their statement is about.