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

April 12, 2005 LB 673

it if we could have 20 prairie dogs on our property and it would stop there. They're cute. They're kind of... I mean, you know, they're kind of fun, and if you're like I am, it's a pretty good sport to do some target shooting. But you can't just have 20 prairie dogs on your property. They multiply, folks, and they do a very good job of it. And if you're riding a horse or you're out in that pasture in a prairie dog town, it becomes a dangerous issue. So we're probably going to take some action on it. I don't want to eliminate prairie dogs on our land, but I'd say those four districts in this state are the ones where the farmers and ranchers really get concerned about prairie dogs. So I'm going to kind of watch and see how Senator Louden and Senator Fischer and Senator Erdman and Smith vote on this, and I'm going to vote with them, because it is a real issue with ranchers in that area of the state. And so that's my comments. We were just amazed. The ranchers out there didn't want to talk about noxious weeds. They wanted to talk about Game and Parks and prairie dogs, and that's what we listened to for two hours, and it had nothing to do with the interim study resolution that we introduced. So thank you for your time.

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

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I will say that I did sign on with Senator Louden on this bill and I am very concerned because of those individual property owners that have a concern about the prairie dogs and what the prairie dogs are doing to their valuation and property. think in developing a management area, I don't know what they have in mind, but I realistically think, you know, the value of their property, if there are colonies upon colonies of prairie dogs, you know, that does affect the valuation, that does affect the income earning ability of that property, which in turn, you know, relates to the value of the property. I think people that are...have property in these areas, you know, there is probably only one or two methods of generating income from that property, and that's through grass and through livestock, and that's how they generate their income. If there is no grass or they've ruined the area, you know, there will be no income on there. But we must remember that those areas are still on the valuation