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populations were perhaps quite different. But the fact is there are a lot of prairie dogs in Nebraska and it is somewhat of a public health concern. I know that northeastern Colorado has had some problems and there are efforts in Colorado. In fact, Colorado defines prairie dogs as rodent pests, and I think Senator Louden's bill is a lot more complimentary of prairie dogs than that. But nonetheless, it is a reasonable approach to addressing a concern that many landowners, ranchers in particular, have had. I know that my district has probably the most...some of the most protected prairie dogs on the planet. In fact, I would argue that some prairie dogs in my district are protected more so than humans because those prairie dogs happen to reside on national park ground. And if those of you who are familiar with national park property, you'll know that those naturally occurring creatures demand and receive...perhaps they don't even demand but they certainly do receive protections that are quite considerable. But I know that they also realize, even on those properties, that...they understand that prairie dog towns can swell, that disease can become a major issue, and for those reasons we need to look at this with a balanced approach, and I think Senator Louden's proposal is a balanced approach and I appreciate the fact that he has brought this forward. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. Further discussion? Senator Stuthman.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the body, I think there is possibly a federal program or the federal government is trying to develop an impact study. Maybe I could engage in a little more conversation with Senator Louden, if I could, please.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Louden, would you respond to a question from Senator Stuthman?

SENATOR LOUDEN: Yes.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Senator Louden, is there anything in the works of the federal government that's going to have an impact study, or when would that ever take place, or would that benefit