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FLOOR DEBATE

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which is, oh, like the Sam McKelvie National Forest and Pine Ridge Ranger District, and those two areas don't have any prairie dogs. The ones they're concerned about are mostly the Oglala National Grasslands, which is in Nebraska, and then, of course, the two in South Dakota where there's a huge amount of prairie dogs up there in that area. So I don't think...we tried to write this thing so it would be compatible with the federal government.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: So, realistically, you think that even if, you know, if we got this passed in this legislative session, you know, that it would...it would be beneficial, you know, to the federal one that would come and and we would be just, you know, proceeding in a timely manner and try to get things done? I'm always concerned, you know, when the federal government gets involved nothing really happens. Yes, they have the comment period and everything. By the time they ever get something developed is a long time down the road and we...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR STUTHMAN: ...we may have greater problems. So...but the thing that does concern me is, you know, is this going to be workable, you know, with the county commissioners, the county supervisors? Is this something that's going to be political suicide when they develop a management plan, just as a planning and zoning livestock management plan that they have for counties that have planning and zoning? I'm really concerned with that, though, that it's not going to be workable. But, like I say, I don't have the problem in my area, but I have sympathy for the property owners that, you know, have the problem in that area. I also was very interested in some of the information that Senator Smith, you know, gave that, you know, they wanted to introduce more prairie dogs so that, you know, get it back to the 1800s. What I've seen in Montana right now, they're introducing the wolves again. They're killing calves on a regular basis. The elks, there's no calves on the elk. There's...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Stuthman.