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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR LOUDEN: Well, the primary cost would fall on the landowners that have them on their property. That's the idea of the bill, to be locally controlled and locally funded. Where the problem comes in, as Senator Chambers has talked about and Senator Beutler's amendment, is when the...and there are local property owners that don't want to comply or don't want to keep track of their animals. No different than if you have a junkyard or something else like that. It's up to you to keep them on your property

SENATOR HOWARD: In that case, who does that fall to?

SENATOR LOUDEN: Pardon?

SENATOR HOWARD: In the case if the property owner themselves don't take the responsibility, then who becomes responsible?

SENATOR LOUDEN: That's it, that's the reason we put it on the duty of the county board or the county commissioners. They're usually your highest governing local entity in a county, is the county commissioners.

SENATOR HOWARD: Well, I've been handed this information and I'll read from this if I may: The counties do not have the expertise nor the financial resource to develop the expertise, to develop the biological and ecosystem impacts of prairie dog colonies. So I am quickly coming under the impression that they're not interested or not willing to assume this responsibility. Is that true?

SENATOR LOUDEN: Okay. I didn't get all of what you said, but I presume you said where the counties don't have...don't feel like they have the money to do that. Is that what you're saying?

SENATOR HOWARD: In essence, yes.

SENATOR LOUDEN: If you'll notice in the bill there that they can assess the cost of the program, whatever they do on that property, can assess it to the landowner in...such as taxes or something. It isn't a mechanic's lien but they can put