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FLOOR DEBATE

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believe in accordance with what Senator Loudon is attempting to do. The central duty imposed upon a landowner is succinctly put in Section 4 of the bill. It says: It is the duty of each person who owns or controls property within a county that has adopted a coordinated program for the management of the black-tailed prairie dogs, under Section 3 of this act, to effectively manage black-tailed prairie dog colonies present upon his or her property to prevent the expansion of colonies to adjacent property. Now what the bill doesn't say anywhere is, but what if the owner of the adjacent property is okay with the dog town expanding a little ways onto his or her property? And so what this amendment says that is that if the owner of the adjacent property is okay with it, it's no business of the county's to snoop into their conjunctive business, to their conjunctive agreement, than it is for the county to snoop onto the owner...the original owner's land, so long as it wasn't jeopardizing adjacent property. So in short, it simply further defines in what cases the advancement of a colony onto an adjacent property is something that would trigger county action. And county action would not be triggered with this amendment, if the adjacent landowner had no objection to the colony being there. That's all it does. By the way, according...the Game and Parks Commission was in the act of doing a fairly extensive series of studies on prairie dogs in Nebraska until they reached a certain level of public objection to their involvement in it, and then they started to curtail their action. But they get done a basic survey of prairie dogs in Nebraska, and by their estimate, which is the very best one that we have, there are about 137,000 acres of prairie dog town in Nebraska, so they're not nearly extinct, nor are they in the numbers of several millions that they were originally. So it's someplace in between, and obviously we need to control them to some extent, as this bill purports to do.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. You've heard the opening on AM1186. Open for discussion on that amendment, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, again Senator Beutler has offered an amendment that I'm going to support, and again I must ask, rhetorically, what is a sensible