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FLOOR DEBATE

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and was treated in Denver. And the thinking was, or the investigation was that he picked it up in southeastern Wyoming there. And they have, of course, a lot of prairie dog colonies in that area. So this is something that...it isn't just worrying about these cute little creatures. This is something that has to be managed. You can't let them overhaul the entire continent, and they will, because the predators aren't that thick. They never were. The things are made sort of like lemmings, that take off and run to the ocean and drown themselves when they get to be too many. Prairie dogs don't do it. They just keep expanding and expanding, until they get a disease in them, and then they're over and done with. This isn't anything uncommon. At the present time, the coyotes out in the area have a mange that makes them...the value of the pelts aren't probably of any value, if there is a value to pelts. But this is something that kills the animals if they're not...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR LOUDEN: ...controlled or managed. This is what the Game and Parks tries to do with the deer population. They try to manage them through their hunting. Otherwise, there would be an overflow of deer and they would be downtown here eating your flowers in your yard. Many of the towns around, when you drive through them at night, have deer right in town. And of course, anybody that's ever hit one with a car knows what the expense is. So this is a management plan. And there's no way of calling it anything else. It isn't eradication. It's a way to manage them. And it's probably one of the forefront ideas that's come about. I know that there are other states that are interested in how we are doing this. Because we had a lot of contact with South Dakota while we were working on this. The problem South Dakota had was, their Legislature was ahead of ours, so they had to go ahead and introduce separate legislation, which is an eradication program, and which has caused them to be in court. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Louden. On with discussion. Senator Chambers.