

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 13, 2005 LB 673

that. I'd like to ask Senator Louden a question about something that I had mentioned he and I had discussed earlier.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Louden, would you yield to a question?

SENATOR LOUDEN: Certainly.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Louden, would you support an amendment to take the money to pay for a prairie dog management program from the Rural Development Cash Fund? Would you support an amendment to do that?

SENATOR LOUDEN: Well, I haven't looked at...I suppose it would be all right. I don't know if there's any money in that cash fund. If there isn't any money in there, it isn't any different than what we have a wildlife management cash fund now in Department of Agriculture that doesn't have any money in it.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Then why don't you work to get some money, instead of trying to dump it onto the individual landowner? It's easier to attack the individual landowner, isn't it?

SENATOR LOUDEN: No, there's a...in this bill, there's an A bill and that sort of thing. We are trying to work to get some money to put into that fund to help out landowners and counties. The counties right now are the ones that are footing the bill for any predator control. And at the present time, they don't have the money to take care of the prairie dogs. The state don't have the money to take care of the prairie dogs. But there's still a problem, so someone has to take care of it. And there's a lot of landowners that are willing to do that, and are doing it, you know, at the present time. The problem is, you don't have a management plan, so that everybody is working in the same direction.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, Senator Louden, we don't have to do that with a state law. The counties can do this, can't they? If they have landowners who want to do this, can't the counties just gather them all together and put a plan together, (inaudible)?