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FLOOR DEBATE

April 13, 2005      LB 673

SENATOR LOUDEN: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Louden, your bill says that when a county, by resolution, adopts one of these management programs that the county...and you can look at page 2 in line 2, and it's not my bill, it's yours...the county shall assume the authority and duties provided in this act. And one of the duties is to draft up these rules and regulations. Now, could not the county lay out alternatives available for managing these animals and declare that eradication shall be a last resort? That means if none of these others work then you go to eradication, but you don't go to eradication immediately because it seems cheaper and easier. They could do that. Couldn't the counties provide for that under the authority given them pursuant to this bill?

SENATOR LOUDEN: Well, yes, the counties, if they adopt this management plan. First of all, that's their option, is whether they want to adopt it. But if they adopt it, why, then they have a coordinated program for the management. So that's left up to the counties what they want to do to coordinate a program of management and that's...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And the state can give them some guidance?

SENATOR LOUDEN: ...that's putting it back down to local control.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: We're...since the state is creating this program, the state can give the counties guidance. Isn't that true?

SENATOR LOUDEN: Yeah, I think it's in here that, yet anyway in the bill, that the director of Department of Agriculture has the authority to also give guidance.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So we could put in the statute that the intent of the Legislature is that eradication be a last resort. You...we can do that if we choose to, can't we?

SENATOR LOUDEN: Yeah. We could also put in there that the intent of the Legislature is to have a management program for