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April 14, 2005 LB 673

committee amendments. (Legislative Journal page 1177.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Louden, would you like to give us a quick review on contents of LB 673?

SENATOR LOUDEN: Thank you, Mr. President. And good morning, members of the body. LB 673 is a bill to manage black-tailed prairie dogs in Nebraska. LB 673 is to be used to address two purposes: one, to manage the overpopulation of prairie dogs when they are devastating to the environment and their ability to live in their habitat. Encroachment of a colony on adjacent lands is addressed also in LB 673. The other part, Nebraska, at the present time, doesn't have a plan to manage black-tailed prairie dogs. Thus, as the federal government is developing a management plan on land controlled by the National Forest Service System, a federal regulation provides for deference to state and local management goals. I have circulated a handout that's a page from the March 2005 impact statement, and I must thank Regional Forester Rick Cables for his cooperation and intent to work with states that have a management plan. LB 673 is a management plan for counties that wish to adopt it, and for Nebraska to participate in the National Forest Service plan. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Louden. Senator Kremer, Chairman of the Ag Committee, would you like to add anything? He waives his opportunity. Senator Chambers, your light is first. I'll give you an extra minute to update us on your amendment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I will be very brief on the update. This amendment is designed to offer a name to the bill which accurately reflects what the bill is about. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: You may continue with your...on your time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Members of the Legislature, this bill is going to be before us for the entire day that we're here. On the last day of the week we go through the noonhour so, for my part, I will not be offended if people want to leave