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because their cattle are there; the fact will be because there's nothing there. The prairie dog won't even have anything to eat. So this is something that I would like to see some of the people that are so concerned about it really get out and investigate it on their own. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Louden. Senator Howard, on amendment FA163 to the committee amendments. Senator Howard.

SENATOR HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. Thank you, Senator Louden. I appreciate the information and, actually, I have been to western Nebraska and very much appreciate that area. I've spent time in the Johnson Lakes area and also up in the Fort Robinson area, taken my children out there. We've spent summertimes out there. We've spent months in the summer out there, and it's a lovely area that I don't think there's any place that can equal that area. And I'd like to just share this...share this with the body. Only about 1 percent of the habitat remains of what was historically prairie dog town. Breaking native ground for farming and poisoning to eliminate competition for cattle grazing has taken its toll. The problem is that many other wildlife species also thrive on the presence of prairie dog towns. The black-footed ferret, which once preyed solely on prairie dogs, has vanished. Other species, such as the badger, the coyote, the eagle, and burrowing owl are also negatively affected by the loss of a food source and living quarters. Having shared that information, I would like to give the remainder of my time to Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator...

SENATOR HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Howard. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Howard. Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Louden thinks that what happens in his district is the whole world. He and other people from the rural areas may as well realize that I'm a state senator and let them get offended. I have saved rural people from their narrow-minded, timid senators. There was a rural organization