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FLOOR DEBATE

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Senator Louden does not want to see this bill killed. It affects his district. I can understand his concern, but many bills that I've supported have helped the rural people. Many bills that I've killed protected the rural people and if I was as narrow in my scope as some of my rural colleagues are, my work would be so much easier here. And if I focus just on my district, as some of the other senators around here...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...seem able only to do, my work would be a lot easier. When you all want to contaminate your constitution, it doesn't affect me or the people in my district. If I didn't have the attitude toward the constitution and the Legislature as an institution, I'd let you all go to Hades in a handbasket. But my scope is broader than that. Education broadens one's scope. Thank you, Mr. President.

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

SENATOR LOUDEN: Yes, thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. When they mention that some of these animals that rely on prairie dogs for habitat, that isn't entirely correct. When they mention the coyote, the coyote has survived quite well without prairie dog populations. There never has been much of a prairie dog population in the Sandhills, not like in the harder country. There's been...there were prairie dog populations there, they usually were confined to the lower ground, and there still are some scattered populations that, for the most part, don't bother anybody. The burrowing owl is another one. I've been around them all my life. Usually, they move into badger holes because they're a little bit bigger holes than what a prairie dog hole have. We have plenty of burrowing owls migrate up in the summertime on the ranch out there. We see them all the time. They're called burrowing owls. I guess we always called them ground owls, but they were a small bird that never seemed to bother anything and it's questionable. I suppose they eat small rodents and that sort of thing. They have a place in the ecosystem, so it isn't anything that's...that they've been deprived of any kind of habitat. They've adjusted to whatever holes were necessary. So when we talk about the ecosystem being