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FLOOR DEBATE

April 20, 2005 LB 673

dog community, it falls on soil filled with what hydrologists call microspores, tunnels larger than a millimeter in diameter. Elsewhere, the entire soil profile,...

SENATOR SCHIMEK PRESIDING

SENATOR SCHIMEK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...from the surface of the earth down to the water table, needs to be saturated before water can percolate down to the table freely. But soil containing microspores doesn't need to be saturated, for microspores promote rapid transit of water through the soil. This process, called short circuit bypass flow, violates a basic tenet of soil water theory. Prairie dog burrows allow water that would ordinarily not make it past the root zone to bypass the whole struggle and move directly to the water table. The soils in prairie dog towns are moister than soils in the surrounding area. And according to the hydrologist, a higher soil moisture increases the total volume of water that percolates downward. The high-intensity, short-duration rainfall that the plains are likely to receive is the type of precipitation most apt to enter macrospores and be rapidly funneled below the root zone. And in that area,...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...the whole Sandhills is acting as a sponge, which is the groundwater that irrigates much of our state.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Chambers, you're recognized to speak.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, I couldn't get my shirt on in time, and it was...it is not mine. But it...the caption says "Chimney Rock, Colorado," and it shows the most charming, delightful groundhog family that a person could imagine. And I was going to put the shirt on, because a young lady wanted me to have it for use during this debate. And I had promised her mother, who delivered it, that I would put it on. I did not realize the bill would come up as soon as it did. But I at