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FLOOR DEBATE

April 20, 2005 LB 673A, 673

management program and fund it, in the way they fund the predator control program; isn't that true?

SENATOR LOUDEN: Well, at the present time, the reason the counties have been mostly against this LB 673 is because they said there wasn't near enough money in there to do them any good, and they was afraid they were going to have to probably spend more money. That's been part of their complaint so far with it.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I understand why they were opposed to the original form of the bill, but it didn't really answer the question. So if you will indulge me, I would like to ask it again. The counties do not feel that the prairie dog problem is sufficiently important to establish and fund a management program, as they have done with the predator control programs; isn't that true?

SENATOR LOUDEN: Well, some of the counties pass what they call their resolutions, but most of those resolutions don't have anything to do at forcing landowners someplace to do something with prairie dogs when they are encroaching. That's where the difference is.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR LOUDEN: I think when the county enforces these resolutions, or adopts these resolutions, this is mostly for what it's worth. No one can be forced to it.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Could the counties put money aside and make it available to any landowner who wants to manage prairie dogs on his or her own property? The county could do that, couldn't it?

SENATOR LOUDEN: If they had the money, I...well, I don't know, Senator Chambers, what they can do with tax money. I suppose they're guided about like anybody else, what they can do and can't do with money. I don't think they can set aside tax money and give it to individuals to do something on their own land. I'm not clear on that myself.