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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 673

SENATOR LOUDEN: Yes.

SENATOR HOWARD: Senator Louden, I'm hoping that you can set my mind at ease about a few of things. And I've been getting quite a few e-mails about this also. But can you tell me, does LB 673 require oversight by any qualified wildlife resource manager?

SENATOR LOUDEN: Does it declare an oversight by anyone, by a wildlife manager?

SENATOR HOWARD: A wildlife resource manager.

SENATOR LOUDEN: No, there's nothing in that bill that sets that up at the present time, unless the county or somebody decides to hire someone. I mean, that would be on their own prerogative if they wanted to. And that's what some of the money is appropriated for, is if there needs to be some management plan or something put in place.

SENATOR HOWARD: Well, the concern that I've been receiving has been that, without a resource...a wildlife resource manager, the plan could cause negative impacts on other species that could result in ecosystem damage, and also that the lack of proper oversight could lead to violations of environmental protection regulations regarding the use and application of poisons. Do you have a concern for that?

SENATOR LOUDEN: No, Senator Howard, not necessarily. Because we have coyotes out there. Some years, rabbits are real thick. They have problems like that. There's no one at the wildlife resource manager over watching over the coyote population, and they're controlled. They've never been eradicated. So, no, I don't have a problem with that, not out in your range country like that. There's usually enough of them in areas that aren't bothered that there's always some left over. As far as the ecosystem, it depends on who you're talking to on what kind of ecosystem you're talking about. The ecosystem they usually talk about is black-footed ferrets, or burrowing ground owls. And I forget some of the other species. They should include rattlesnakes, too. But your burrowing ground owls will use badger holes and other holes. They don't just necessarily