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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 673

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

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, this bill is not worth all the time that was put on it, but I've invested a lot into it because I'm concerned about the direction it's going. It will require individual landowners to do the job that the county or the state ought to do. And when a landowner is told that he or she must take care of the animals, one way or the other, or have an assessment made against his or her property, that person is going to take what seems to be the cheapest way out, probably some kind of poison. It may not be effective, but it may leach into the soil. It may poison animals other than prairie dogs. It may poison some prairie dogs who will leave their burrows and go someplace else, be consumed by another animal, which animal will die. This is a blueprint for very bad things. It is irresponsible state policy. It is an attempt by the counties to shift onto the individual landowner a responsibility that is the state's or the county's. No person can anymore determine that these prairie dogs are going to stay confined to a piece of land than these people who have hog operations are required to confine the stench and the flies and the other things to their property. They cannot, and they're not required to do that. They say they take what steps they can, but everybody knows that the quality of life is hindered and diminished greatly when these operations come near to where people live. So when people decide on a vote that's going to be taken that they're going to keep this thing alive, I feel so strongly about what I'm doing that I have to make sure we don't get to this bill again. That means I've got to find a way, for the next eight days, to take time on every bill that comes before us. This bill should not have come this far. You all gave Senator Loudon a cloture vote, and I did not do everything I could to stop us from getting to it again. To be quite frank, I didn't know that we would get to it again, but I've learned my lesson. I won't be bitten twice the same way during the same session. If you all think this bill is as important as some people want to say...and there are some counties that don't like it. They don't want to be put in a position where they can be sued and compelled to go into their reserve funds to carry out the duties and responsibilities that