

there would be a user fee, if you will, for this program that was partially funded from General Funds. But I, too, want to rise to support the Lamb amendment because I think it is important that we recognize that there are a lot of people in this state having economic difficulties right now that are still being forced to expend some of their own funds or else suffer a considerable loss. And I can tell you, I can tell you about a situation that is going on right in my own neighborhood. Some of the people out there have had such a severe program in losing calves to coyotes that they've tried to get the federal people from the Federal Fish and Wildlife Service to come and help them. And they would be willing, I think, to provide some of the funds. As a matter of fact they are paying for some funds to hire an airplane to try to eradicate some of the coyotes. I don't think any of us, or a lot of people at least really don't recognize the extent of the program in some of the more hilly country in this state where there is an awful lot of those predators, and how the effect that they have on a person's operation. I know we are at the...many times and right now we're keeping some of our calves up and feeding the cows extra, we're having to feed them extra in order to keep the calves up so they aren't out in a situation where they can be attacked. And it does cost a lot of money to those individuals. It seems to me that it is not unreasonable to expect the taxpayers of this state to help subsidize a program to protect those people in that industry. Now I want to touch, just briefly, because I've said this before, that there are those people that feel that we somehow upset the balance of nature when we have these types of programs. And that was one of the points that I was making last week on that meat-out day, little exercise, that perhaps we are doing something wrong with that. But I can tell you that we're not going to upset the balance of nature. I mentioned before that the last living creature on this Earth is probably going to be a coyote howling as the rest of us go off. So I would urge you to adopt this motion and also to adopt the Johnson-Vickers motion later on to another bill that will allow some cash funds to come in to help subsidize this program which may, in the end, be able to reduce the amount of General Funds that Senator Lamb is putting in. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Warner, please.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature,