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Comments: To Whom It May Concern:

As you know, the prairie dog is a keystone species. When the possibility of rodenticides arises, we find it disconcerting. The usage of poisons to maintain a population could have a subsequent effect on endangered species like the black footed ferret. In the 2011 article "Intoxication of Nontarget Wildlife with Rodenticides in Northwestern Kansas" published in The Journal of Wildlife Diseases, Ruder et al identify instances of nontarget intoxication in both avian and mammalian species when rodenticides were used to control black-tailed prairie dog populations. Although this is but one study, one is enough. Avoiding poisoning our lands is essential.

We do appreciate the use of vegetation barriers and translocation of prairie dog coterries and hope that these solutions, despite their challenges, can suffice in maintaining appropriate boundaries for these creatures. Roughly over a 120 species are impacted by the continued survival of a healthy prairie dog population - the resulting ecosystem is worth the extra effort.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts. We are avid prairie dog and wildlife advocates. With the constant threat of habitat loss (much like we are seeing in Cheyenne with the Whitney Ranch construction), we count on those in viable positions to defend our wildlife - to act on our behalf and the resulting future.

We appreciate all that you are doing and hope that a safe solution can be reached. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.