

Coordsen's amendment. I don't believe that mileage really has anything to do with what we're talking about here. I had a CC license until they came up with the CDL and no longer took it because I drove a truck. And driving an 18-wheeler is different than driving a straight truck and, as Senator Beutler mentioned, even if you were within 35 miles of a city, you could drive in the city. And it seems to me you have an over-the-road driver that's driving 200,000 miles a year in one of these rigs has to have a CDL license and yet you can have somebody that drives just seasonally and don't have to have it. So I would not support either one of the amendments. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Schmitt. Senator Lynch, on the Withem amendment. I do not see Senator Lynch. Senator Witek, on the Withem amendment.

SENATOR WITEK: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I...I also rise opposed to both this amendment to the amendment and the original Coordsen amendment. And I agree with Senator Schmitt and many other remarks, it is not an easy thing to be able to drive a truck. I can...I have a stick in my car and I can drive that easily, but when I try to climb into the cab of a semi it takes much more skill, and one thing I definitely have learned, it's easy to go forward, it's very difficult to maneuver that type of a vehicle. It does take skill. It is an issue of safety, regardless of what people have said. And, Senator Hartnett, you asked about the vehicles, many times these are vehicles that are in excess, although not supposedly, of 80,000 pounds down any highway. You would want someone with skill driving a vehicle that weighed 80,000 pounds down your highway with your family, with yourself. So it doesn't hurt to leave it the way it is. I think it does much harm to try to change it and give an exemption for these types of vehicles. If they...if they have...if they own a tractor-trailer and a semitrailer, a grain hauler, whatever, then they should be able to go and take the time to get a CDL. It does take a little extra to do that studying but it can be done with a tape series. You don't have to go to school for it. You can do your tape series at home and your books at home and go and get your CDL. It does take some time and it will take some skill, but I think that's what we want out of people who are operating 80,000 pounds worth of a vehicle. And so I ask you to think very carefully before you would adopt any kind of these amendments. As Senator Kristensen said, you have one driver going down the road who has a CDL operating the same kind of vehicle, the same