

January 25, 1979

LB 49

market. In some cases too, some branch lines have been abandoned and there is no longer any rail service available and it simply makes sense to allow the use of these larger vehicles. In addition I think this piece of legislation is important when you evaluate it from the highway safety point of view. Currently on the roads today there are a lot of conventional farm trucks, either with one axle or a tandem axles where they are towing trailers behind these and some of these combinations with a straight truck and a trailer will haul as much grain as a semi and it certainly is not as safe an operation or not as efficient and I think for safety's standpoint it would be better to allow this additional classification of trucks for the farm community. This is the first year that the, to my knowledge, that the Motor Carriers Association, the commercial truckers organization has not opposed this legislation. I think it is because they recognize the problems that the agricultural community are having in moving their products. They also recognize the financial cost arrangement which I mentioned earlier and the fees would be higher than in previous attempts and also I believe they feel the penalty section is sufficient to discourage farmers from using their vehicles commercially. So I urge you to advance LB 49 to Select File and on to final passage. I would be more than happy to respond to questions from members of the Legislature about this particular measure. Thank you.

PRESIDENT LUEDTKE: The Chair recognizes Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, a question of Senator Cullan please.

PRESIDENT LUEDTKE: Senator Cullan, will you respond?

SENATOR CULLAN: Yes, certainly.

SENATOR LAMB: What percent of the farmers would you say own semitrailers of this type?

SENATOR CULLAN: I think there are very few, Senator Lamb. To my knowledge I can think of only one in Box Butte County. There may be more. There are some farmers who also own these vehicles that are actually not...that use them commercially and they certainly should not change their registration under this bill.

SENATOR LAMB: I guess one of the problems that I have with this bill is enforcement. I don't see how in the world you