

out of the windshield, but anyway driving down the interstate, I had to make a stop and, Senator Newell, I can assure you that I would have rear ended that truck in front of me had my cleats not dug into that ice. If I had just a straight snow tire, it would have been like ice skates on ice, and for that and for some just common sensical kind of reasons, I will have to oppose the advancement of LB 619.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kremer and then Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KREMER: Mr. Chairman and members, very, very briefly, I have always tried to abide by a policy, don't take a position on a bill unless you've looked at the facts. I would like to make three points and three points only. Number one, I listened very carefully to Senator Venditte and apparently he has had different experiences than I've had. I had studded snow tires on my car and took them off. I didn't see that they did all that much good. They did some, I will agree. However, the real problem today is how are we going to pay for the upkeep and the building of our highways today. We have heard bills in the Public Works Committee the last several days having to do with cost of maintenance and improvements of our highways and, frankly, we do not know where the money is coming from. Now, the second point I want to make is this, that in my opinion, the things that I have read, the research that has been conducted has proved to me that we do get deterioration on our highways because of the studded snow tires. So I make my point. My point is this, I don't think they do that much good. They do some good but not that much to compensate for the damage we are doing to our highways. We are not going to be able to keep up. We are going to have to raise our gasoline tax or get it out of some other funds in that. We need to consider that and this is a serious matter. The funds just aren't there. For these reasons I support Senator Newell and his bill, LB 619, to do away with the studded snow tires. I think it would be a wise move. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I think we are probably ten or fifteen years too late with this bill. I think the damage has been done to the highways that is going to be done. The bill doesn't exempt the use of snow tires for what, three more winters, just the rest of this one and two more. I just don't believe that by then, if the sales of snow tires continue to drop like they have