

checked with the Roads Department and they believe they do have the discretionary authority but I'm not that confident and I don't think they know themselves at this point whether they would exercise a discretion to leave it at 55 around Omaha. I would like this bill to provide, if it does pass, as an insurance policy for the people in Omaha to provide that under no circumstances can the speed limit exceed 65 in the network of freeways and interstates around Omaha and I think, colleagues, that you will find that the Omaha delegation with the exception of Senator Chambers and perhaps one or two others is virtually unanimous in this feeling about what is proper for our part of the state and I would urge you to adopt this particular amendment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Labeledz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I strongly support the amendment, so strongly that I asked for my name to be added to the amendment this morning. I am one of the people that have to travel the interstate in the City of Omaha going down to the Federal Building every morning. I live on 40th Street and I have tried on several occasions to go onto the interstate at 42nd but that is almost impossible because you have about two minutes to get from one lane that leads you to the Kennedy Interstate to get into the middle lane to go downtown. So now in the last two years I have been going to F Street and getting on the interstate at the Kennedy Freeway and this especially, I believe, is the most dangerous part of the interstate. I have seen accidents there that are unbelievable. Going down to Omaha, I know the cars are very very heavy around seven-thirty but as soon as the bumper to bumper traffic slows down, then the cars coming from the west going east is very very fast and it is almost impossible to get over into the lane that you require to get downtown. I am asking that we keep the 55 mile an hour speed limit for at least Omaha. I don't and will not support the bill if it is 65 all the way through the State of Nebraska. I think we need the 55 mile an hour at least in Omaha because the traffic, as I say, is too heavy for them to be going 60 or 65. The speed limit as it was reported in the paper in the last couple days did result in several calls to me over the weekend and people that do work downtown are very very upset about it because I have seen accident after accident at least from 42nd to the area of downtown Omaha. I urge each and every one of you to consider the 55 mile an hour speed limit for at least in Omaha and then think very strongly about increasing it to 65. If this bill is going to pass I would prefer to see it at 60 miles an hour. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Chambers.