

brightness, while it might have an advantage in terms of being able to see the plate itself from a further distance, has the disadvantage of making the numerals and the letters less legible. With regard to the brightness and the ability to see it from a greater distance, while that is an advantage, on the other hand it is not much of an advantage in the sense that the taillights of the car are visible under normal circumstances from a much greater distance than anybody's license plate. So what I am saying is that the safety you get out of additional brightness is not worth the loss of legibility, or in any event, it is an extremely close question. The requirement that eight hundred feet when illuminated by lawful low beam lights, the requirement of eight hundred feet visibility is about two hundred feet beyond current federal standards and it is about three hundred feet beyond the standard that is now set into LB 290. The point is what price safety or what price do we want to see these plates from way out. Taillights are visible beyond that distance. So the only point as far as I can see of a requirement that goes beyond reasonable federal standards, beyond reasonable state standards and is less than the distance that you can see taillights, the only reason to have that is to again cut down on the bidding. Let me back up for a minute, let me back up for a minute and try to identify for the Legislature the factors we should be looking at. We are talking about durability. We are talking about legibility. We are talking about safety and we are talking about registration. Registration is not an issue. Both can be equally easily registered obviously. Durability, we are talking about a plate that has to last....

SPEAKER MARVEL: Please cut the noise down so that those who are speaking to the issue can make their points. We are running in a time bind among other things and this has to be finished by eleven thirty. Okay, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Durability, what are we talking about? We are talking about making a license plate that lasts for six years. That is the Nebraska requirement. Six years. The experience with the beads-on-paint has been that they do last six years. Colorado and one other state is now extending their experience...their experience has been so good with this particular type, they are extending it to six years. There is no problem with the durability in either case of six years. The durability is there. Now, Senator DeCamp can talk about highway signs that we intend to last for much, much longer periods of time, and in that case the argument for durability has some relevance, but when you are talking about a license plate that has to last for six years, the durability argument just doesn't make sense in my opinion.