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LB 383

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I think this is a subject that would be worthy of some debate and I have some questions about beginning it at this early point in time, the process of taking the bills that are behind in the process and essentially in moving them ahead of priority bills by the technique of amending bills on the floor of the Legislature for that purpose. I think first of all, that it is a bad precedent to establish to start doing this. We're going to waste a great deal of time eventually and I have some questions on this particular bill with regard to bridge damage and abutment damage and some of the Department of Roads' concerns. I think we would be better off simply to reject the amendment on the basis that we don't want to get into the process of amending bills on the floor for the purpose of getting nonpriority bills placed ahead of priority bills. That is essentially what we are doing here as we start this technique. A great deal of our time is going to be consumed on nonpriority bills essentially. So I think we should stop at the very beginning this process and go back to our priority bill system as we have set it up and deal with the priority bills first. And for that reason mainly I would like to ask you to reject the amendment. There is no emergency on this particular item. Let's then go back and pick it up in the normal course of our process. If we hear it this year, fine. If we don't get around to it until next year, that is fine too. That is the way the system is set up. We're here to hear the priority bills first and that rule should not, for reasons of good policy, be circumvented. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. President, perhaps a question of Senator Nichol.

PRESIDENT: Senator Nichol, will you respond.

SENATOR NICHOL: Yes.

SENATOR KAHLE: Senator Nichol, if I understand the procedure now if they want to tow a disabled truck that will include the tractor and the semi they have to uncouple them because they are too long to pull. Is this correct?

SENATOR NICHOL: That is correct. In some instances that is correct.

SENATOR KAHLE: So as I travel up and down the interstate occasionally I see a trailer setting beside the road, the tractor has been taken off and to me this is a road hazard. So I support the Nichol amendment. I think while we are