

to request the testing to be taking place. So I see no problem with this amendment. I think it is a clarifying amendment and I think it is appropriate. I think we should adopt this amendment and get down to the discussion of the issue whether or not we want to accept the amendment as a part of the bill and discuss other issues at a later time. I move for the adoption of the committee amendment, along with Senator Kremer.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Cullan, on the committee amendments.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I think the committee amendments are, in fact, quite substantive. I think they are dramatically different from the bill although to the truckers I suppose they have the same goal in mind and that is of allowing larger and bigger trucks on the roads of the State of Nebraska but a part of my concern about the committee amendments initially is that it gives a great deal of discretion to the Department of Roads in what to authorize and if you look specifically at the committee amendments and Senator Koch talked about weights, but if you read the committee amendments, and that is what we must do, Senator Koch. We can't simply rely on what people tell us. But it says the Department of Roads at its discretion may establish testing programs under special permit procedure, utilize highways under its jurisdiction to operate or move a vehicle or combination of vehicles or objects that exceeds the maximum specified by law. It doesn't say maximum length. It doesn't say maximum weight. It says maximum. And the way I would read that that means both, maximum weight and maximum length or any other maximums that are in state law. And so what this bill does, in my opinion, from a very simple reading of it is to allow trucks of any length, allow trucks of any weight, to be moved on any road in the State of Nebraska. Now the article that was mentioned this morning or that was mentioned earlier in the newspaper indicated that the trucking industry said, well this will only be on the interstate and this only applies to length. Well that may be what the lobbyist for the trucking industry says, ladies and gentlemen, but it is not what the bill says. The bill says maximum and that means weight and length and I don't think we need to allow heavier or longer vehicles on the roads in the State of Nebraska. But how can we delegate these decisions on the rules of the road to the Department of Roads? Aren't we going to control the roads of the State of Nebraska from the Legislature any more? Are we simply going to turn it over to the Department of Roads? That is the way the original bill was drafted and I think that is really the ultimate intent behind LB 408. I think that we should reject the committee amendments and we should indefinitely postpone the bill, but read those committee amendments. It says maximum. It doesn't say