

of a hundred miles of Nebraska highways are built by bus and truck taxes. Even if that is the case and 80% of our road damage is from truck and buses, then that shows that they aren't quite covering their cost of operation. When you start talking about triple trailers, you have to talk about the efficiency question that they say is the reason for voting for the bill but you don't get the efficiencies until you raise the weight limits and that causes the road damage I am talking about. I think it is a problem we have to be aware of and a problem that I think we should be concerned with. Another point I think is very important is the question about what restrictions we do place on the testing. This is not a testing program and I just wish everybody would cross that phrase out on LB 408. It is not testing, it is a new special permit system to allow bigger trucks on our highways. Simple, clear, that is what we are talking about and not even trucks as Senator Cullan talked about, mobile homes, other vehicles may be included. We delegate authority that we are not sure how it is going to be used by the Roads Department and it is clear in my mind that we have to be very concerned about the impacts of this legislation on the future. What control will the Legislature have on weight and length of trucks in this state if we start this program and start down this direction of delegating all that authority to our Roads Department. When we talk about the trucks and the energy savings that are involved in it, I think one of the biggest energy savings we might have is if they would start observing the speed limit. We found time and again that we have a serious problem with trucks going too fast and not observing the speed limit and that causes greater consumption of gasoline, and so if you really want to talk about energy consumption, that is one way to do that. And we do know about the serious problem the number of times that trucks are found to be overweight and I think that that has its impact on the roads. There is a wealth of information on the issue. There is a wealth of information that comes to the conclusion that this bill should be killed. I think that we can proceed with other legislation. It has already taken a lot of time. I will tell you this, that if the legislation is not killed at this point, I have already talked to Senator Cullan, we have drafted an amendment to deal with the weight-distance issue. If you are going to insist on allowing triple trailers in the State of Nebraska, then they should carry their own weight as far as the tax question goes, the road damage that they cause. And if nothing else you are going to see further amendments on this bill to try and make it at least fair and equitable, some tightening of the different restrictions.

SENATOR LAMB: One minute, Senator.