

which would cover the extra cost of issuing that particular plate. I would suggest to you this morning that as has been indicated by several previous testifiers that this plate differs rather substantially from what we would commonly accept as prestige plates in the State of Nebraska. Yes, there is an identification of the person in the vehicle by having their call signs on the license plate of a vehicle, but there is a good sound reason to do this. This license plate, in the case of an emergency, is their identification badge to all members of law enforcement officers, the militia, whoever is in charge of the security of an area. I would suggest to you that in not too distant history the tornado that struck Omaha, the only communications that was available for several days was that that was provided by the amateur radio people in the State of Nebraska. Some well over 100 of them assisted in the effort in that particular area. You can go across the state, floods, blizzards, whatever, this amateur radio plate is more of an ID badge than the prestige of the other types of plates that have been discussed this morning. So with that in mind, I would say that with the amount of money that we spend in other areas in assisting local rescue units, fire departments, all of those that do help us in cases of emergency, we offer the amateur radio people nothing in return for their investment of time, equipment, and expertise. I would suggest to you that trying to make money for the state from their service is simply not right, and that in this particular case, that to recover the actual cost of providing this license plate for the members of that organization that want to carry that on their vehicle would be not right, that it should be only the amount of actual cost. So I would urge the defeat of the amendment in this particular case, although I would support the extra fees in other cases where it is strictly personal prestige, and that the bill be adopted as it was originally written. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I wonder if Senator Lamb could answer me a question.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Lamb.

SENATOR DIERKS: How many amateur radio plates are issued in Nebraska?

SENATOR LAMB: I don't know if I have that information. Let's