

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, thank you, Senator Kristensen, for the explanation of the bill. The bill is seeking to address a limited problem that exists from time to time out in the countryside at harvest time when carrier enforcement elects to set their scales up between a harvest field and a farmyard or an elevator. I think, since the amendment to the amendment only...only restores the original 10 percent that was in the...in the proposed amendment to the Transportation Committee, I would talk just a little bit about the committee amendment and the same, basically the same type of information applies to the amendment to the amendment as to the committee amendment. We're talking about a situation where for single axle trucks there are no exceptions. We have, in statute, for tandem axle trucks, an authorized permit which allows 15 percent, 15 percent in 56-pound corn, is about 5,100 pounds or 91 bushels of corn or almost a production from an acre in most years and certainly in dry land production. This tolerance was put into statutes a number of years ago to allow for the inability of eyeball guesses as to the weight in the harvest field. However, because of the limitations on the federal side on the bridge safety formula of 20,000 pounds per axle, this permit was not able to be applied to single axle farm trucks, the kind that the smaller farmers have and the larger farmers press into service during harvest. LB 170, in its original form, was an attempt to put in place a permit system to...that would apply off of the interstate system with a limited range. After conversations with the Motor Carriers Association, they suggested that rather than a permit we propose a tolerance to be allowed in a very narrow situation and that is from the harvest field to a bin site or an elevator no further than 70 miles and it does not apply on the interstate system. To put the difference between the amendment to the amendment and the amendment in perspective, the committee amendment provides 5 percent which is 1,000 pounds that would be allowed on a single axle farm truck over the 20,000 pounds, a total of 21,000 pounds. In corn, this is 36 bushels. To try to put this in a little bit of perspective, the volume measurement of this, 1,000 pounds, if you can visualize a standard pickup truck bed would be about two-tenths or 18 inches in a standard pickup truck bed so 1,000 pounds of grain is a very small volume to try to guess in the field when you have no way of measuring it. A typical combine bin will vary more than that, depending upon the bushel