

or a sign is damaged in an accident in a hazardous area, they are not liable whether they replace the sign or not. Now there are some areas that can be fine tuned. If the state is clearly negligent and they do not replace that sign for a year or two-year period, then, yeah, I think there should be some liability. And why should there be liability? Because that is the only way you insure that the State of Nebraska or the City of Omaha or the City of Lincoln or any county throughout the state will properly maintain the roadways. I guess we would like to say that it is a perfect world and states and counties and cities always do everything that is right, but having been in the State Legislature for a nine-year period, I can say that that is not the way it works. The only way, it seems to me, that a state will do something or a government will do something is where there is accountability and, by removing this section of the law, I think we are removing accountability. That is what it is all about. If the state and the county or the city acts negligently with reckless disregard or gross negligence on the part of replacing traffic inspections then there should be some liability. The reason for that is there is accountability with the liability laws as such. Now, there might be some middle ground in this whole issue. But the middle ground that has been shown by the proponents of this particular amendment has been take it or leave it. I don't believe that that is the proper approach in dealing with an issue where people's lives are at stake. Now the proponents of this particular idea will say, you know, it is going to cost the state money. It could cost the state dollars. But you compare that with the issue of lives, shouldn't the state replace signs that are damaged? Shouldn't the state adequately repair roadways that are damaged? I think they should because it costs people's lives, it causes individuals to be hurt or killed and I think the state has a responsibility for that. Again, what this amendment would do is strike that section and would put accountability back into the bill and back into our statutes. I urge its adoption.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you Senator Abboud. Senator Beutler followed by Senator Morrissey. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Madam President, Senator Kristensen a couple of questions, if I may. Is Senator Kristensen here? Senator Kristensen, just some questions in a couple of different areas, if I may. First of all, as my understanding is evolving on this and I apologize if it evolves a little tediously and slowly but, as I understand it, one of the allegations is that there was no