

am comfortable that the bill, as it sits right now, does not jeopardize that fund. If it does, I'd probably be the first one that would be up here, and I'd strip those out because I don't want to lose those federal funds. We rely on those MCSAP funds for our inspections and our safety programs here, and that's crucial to us keeping those people out there. And we've been looking at this as hard as we can, so, yes, I am comfortable that I'm not jeopardizing those funds, but if we do, you'll probably see me be the first one in here to "strick" that, stricken that out.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. And you've raised the issue of the MCSAP funds being safety funds, and that this is one of the principal issues with regard to the whole...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: ...proposal that is before us because it...even though there is a difference between the individuals that work within the state, I guess, there is no difference when it relates to safety, and there is a recent article with regard to the whole issue of the nation's highways and the safety factor of those, and Nebraska is listed as the number one, I guess, state for purposes of accidents as it relates to those large trucks. The reason that is given by the National Transportation Safety Board is that driver fatigue is the number one cause of fatal accidents, and that fatigue comes about because of the increase, such as the one that is in this proposal, in terms of the number of hours that are worked. I believe that the safety component is a far...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time.

SENATOR HALL: ...greater component to be looked at, and would urge the return to Select File for that purpose.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Bromm.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to rise and briefly state my support for the Kristensen bill but the opposition to the amendment. As has been stated before, and I don't want to be terribly repetitive here, but in the state that we are in, with the vastness and the great agricultural economy that we have as a seasonal nature of applying fertilizer and that kind of thing, which is so prevalent out in our 102a, it is