

with deer and animals, you have that...most of that interstate fenced. I still hit my first deer on the interstate this summer, but the chances are less likely. You have that protection. You have that ability for a small mistake to recover from it. On the two-lane roads you don't have that and many of our two-lane roads also have problems with curves, that there's not enough distance for a curve, to safely negotiate that at 65. Going down and up hills with crossings or with stop signs at the end of those hills or at the top of those grades, that also adds to the safety factor. I think that the state is taking a chance by increasing the speed from 55 to 60. I recognize and I think Senator Wickersham's correct, there is an increase and that the practical speed in general on most of our two-lane roads is not 60 mile an hour, is somewhat less of that. Are there roads that you can do that? There are some wonderful roads, particularly out in Senator Matzke's area. Senator Wickersham, in fact, you have some...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: ..very good roads that are...well, Senator Owen Elmer, you're correct, you do have some good roads and spots where you could do 65. I'm not telling you that you can't. I'm saying, however, that if you're going to do this as a state policy to raise this to 65, you will increase deaths and injuries on the two-lane roads. You're twice as likely now to have that occur to you just driving on those roads. If you increase the speed it really is dangerous. I would hope that the body would continue the discussion we've had all day long and that's been reducing speeds. Now's not the time to increase the speeds on the dangerous roads and I would oppose the Wickersham amendment and would be happy to answer any questions. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Senator Elmer, followed by Senators Robinson and Jones.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Part of this bill that's before us in the committee amendments gives the Department of Roads discretion to set the speeds on the highways at the proper speed as the traffic and design of that road may allow. Now if we follow that logic, the Department of Roads, in recommending 55 miles an hour, as Senator Kristensen has said, if all of our roads in the state are in that type of a situation