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SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Matzke.

SENATOR MATZKE: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I think it'd be helpful if I told you that this bill originally was brought to me by sugar beet growers in the Scottsbluff-Kimball area, and most people are not familiar with the harvesting of sugar beets, which are dug out of the ground by a large machine, in the ground and the sugar beet campaign or harvest starts in October, runs just for about 30 days, and it's necessary, timewise, to get those sugar beets out before they get frozen. So it is a time imperative process. They are harvested in the field, usually trucked to large collection areas where there are large piles of sugar beets. If you've ever been in western Nebraska in the fall, you've probably seen many of these piles of sugar beets. Now the practical fact is that commercial truckers don't want to take their expensive truck rigs out into the wet, muddy beet fields where these sugar beets are being harvested. It's only the farmers that raise the sugar beets that want to get their truck out there. And what Senator Schrock says is right, most of these tractors and trailers are second or third hand bought for less than \$10,000, driven out into the mud to collect the sugar beets in the fall, hauled to collection points or hauled into the sugar beet factory in Scottsbluff. It is not anything that commercial truckers want to do, and the problem is that there are...there is a shortage of trucks for that period of time which is usually limited to 30 days or 6 weeks, at the longest. There are commercial trucks that come in from adjoining states, particularly Wyoming, that haul sugar beets but there isn't always an adequate supply of transportation available at the critical time. So what actually happens is that farmers who can afford it will have their own tractor trailer semi rig. They will haul their own beets and then they'll help their neighbors out, and that's imperative that they do it within the time frame. The problem is their acting illegally under Nebraska law, and this deletion would permit them to do it, not on a commercial basis, but on an exchange of services. And the people who...the farmers that came in from Kimball to testify on behalf of this bill explained that they do actually exchange services. They keep track of the work they've done and they get services in exchange for that. It is not a commercial venture. It's a neighborly matter of trying to help out other people in