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picked up along the way that I thought you might want to know about. The only problem with this bill is here it is, dealing with the subject of license plates, and it doesn't solve how ugly they are. (Laughter) Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Brashear. Further discussion, Senator Thompson.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Mr. President, members of the body, I'm not sure I want to follow that speech, but I'll do my best here. I just rise in support of the amendment and thought I would share a couple things that we heard during the hearing in the Transportation Committee. My county, Sarpy County, supports this and did a little bit of surveying of people who came through the courthouse on this issue, asking them if this was an efficiency and would save money if they would be supportive of it, and they...and they were. And I'm attempting to get a copy of that survey, it wasn't scientific, but to pass that out to the members to show that at our county level there has been discussion of it and there is support for it. And I think we need to recognize that the counties have come to us in an effort to become more efficient and to save money and to do things better, and I think we should support the efforts of those counties that have been working on it, talking to their constituencies about this. I also thought I would share a little bit of the testimony of the Department of Motor Vehicles on this. They testified in a neutral capacity, but they did have some comments. First, they said we believe that alphanumeric plates would be a big advantage over the present county designated system in that it would reduce the number of plates we would have to manufacture and simplify inventory. Currently, we estimate the number of plates by county and send each county enough for one year, plus a 5 percent factor. Because the plates are county designated, we can't switch plates between counties if it turns out that one county needs less and another needs more. We went...if we went to alphanumeric, we could significantly reduce the number of plates we print, perhaps only printing 65 percent as many. I think at the time...at this point in time we have a way to support greater efficiencies, not only at the state but at the local level, and that we should support this request from the counties. Thank you.