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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, to clarify something that was said earlier, it's true, as Senator Baker said, that the Carrier Enforcement people testified in a neutral capacity. But they testified, as you might say, neutrally favorable, because they said that they approved of the proposal that I had. Now, later I was told by the...or, my staff was told by the Carrier Enforcement people that they were not authorized to come in and comment on Senator Schrock's bill. And I have no understanding as to why that would be. But I do have this concern. And that's why I'm going to wait until Select File to clarify the issue. If 125 feet is...misses the point by three feet, then perhaps we can modify the total length that we're talking about. But I still think it's very much a matter of concern to make this an unlimited towing operation, particularly on the two-lane roads. So that's my only comment at this point. I'm favorable to the idea of increasing the limitation from 95 feet, because that's an unreasonable restriction now on the flow of commerce. As to what the exact number of feet should be, all of these things show that the maximum would be 128 feet, so I don't...I think we just...we're quibbling over three feet. But be that as it may, I think that for safety reasons, and for economic reasons, you know, they can separate these units and take them in one at a time, but the problem in doing that is you're going to leave a disabled vehicle out there on the highway, which in itself, particularly in inclement weather, could be a real safety hazard to the general public. So there's benefit in removing the vehicle itself as one unit. And I have a concern about the limitation. We were told by the Patrol and the Carrier Enforcement people that they thought it would be a safety hazard to separate the units, and they were in favor of the proposal that we had, and we worked with them on the 125 feet. So if it would take some more feet in order to accomplish a reasonable amount, then I would certainly be willing to propose that on Select File. I like the idea of increasing the limitation. I think that it's a bit scary, in a sense, to authorize unlimited length throughout the highway systems of the state of Nebraska. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Pederson. There are no