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FLOOR DEBATE

April 14, 2003 LB 481

Telecommunications, advanced to General File. I have no amendments at this time to the bill, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Baker, you're recognized to open on advancement of LB 481.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members. This bill also came out of committee 8 to 0. There were no opponents at the hearing, no neutral testimony, only proponents. What this does...and it's a little more substantive than the last bill. It does get us up to speed on the changes in technology on our weigh stations on our highway system here in the state of Nebraska. As you know, it used to be simply a matter of pulling off the highway, having your truck weighed, papers inspected, possibly the truck inspected. Now, with the new technology, with the prepass scales we have on Interstate 80 and so on, there's a whole different scenario has developed, in that these trucks that are approved for prepass are...have GPS...global position systems in them, and so on. What this bill does...and it is just a one-page bill, but it gets our statutes up to speed with the changes in technology. It's amazing what's going on out there with these trucks now, with GPS systems in them, and all the lights on the various consoles they have in them. Formerly, they were required to stop at a weigh station. Now they simply could read their codes off the truck as it passes a reader, a magnetic reader. And now they must obey signs...messages within their truck cab. So this simply gets the statutes of Nebraska up to speed with the technology changes. It states that any vehicle that fails to obey any sign, message board, or in-cab signal from any state weighing station or portable scale shall...knowingly passes or bypasses and goes on, it gets us up to date with the technology. I don't know that this is where we're going to end. But it certainly acknowledges there are now signs, message boards, and in-cab signals that are transmitted when they come to these weigh stations now along the interstate. And I think there's one down at Hebron also. But it's quite a change of technology. And I certainly hope that we can adopt this. I would encourage anyone who has an interest in this to stop out there. They'd be glad to give you a tour, just what it is, how the technology has changed. And Nebraska is a leader in this. So I would ask for