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LB 853

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Smith. You've heard the opening on the Smith amendment. Members, it's a little loud. Would you please try to keep the conversations down, please, for respect to the speakers. Senator Baker.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members. I rise to discuss Senator Smith's amendment, AM2357. There are some issues here that we need to consider. The amendment says a gross laden weight of 48,000 pounds. There are all sorts of...there's a multitude of grain carts, is what we call them generically, I guess, that some of them are very large flotation tires on one axle. There are tandem-axle grain carts, there's all sorts of things out there. I'm getting looks from farm senators saying, whoa. But they could be pulled down the highway now, with the exception they have to adhere to the weight limits. And this amendment, quite honestly...and Senator Smith, maybe you could answer a question. I have looked at this, but it says 48,000 pounds. Does that include a series of axles or is that...do you have any intention of clarifying that? Is this a combination of axles, or could this 48,000 pounds be on one axle?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Well, I'd be willing to look at that, but it is the gross weight.

SENATOR BAKER: So what we're saying here...thank you, Senator Smith. I'm concerned. A 48,000 pound axle...and I honestly don't know how many pounds it could get on a single-axle grain cart. There are some very large ones out there with very large tires on them, and I would be concerned about the weight on the highway, the structure, the actual asphalt, concrete, if we had a grain cart that was weighing 48,000 pounds on an axle. I think we need to clarify some language in here, and quite honestly, we haven't devoted much time to this amendment. I would encourage Senator Smith to come back with--I know this bill is on Select File--but come back with this amendment someplace else, or to work with the Department of Roads and see if we can do something here with carrier enforcement. I can't