

SENATOR HABERMAN: What the bill does is it allows farmers to harvest and haul grain and other products to storage, market, or a stockpile in the field, or from a storage or stockpile to market. It does not allow trucks to be overweighted by 15 percent and go down the highway to a complete different community, use the interstate, or any big semi, it doesn't allow that. It merely is the farmer during harvest to get an overweight permit of 15 percent. He can get four permits per year. The people who spoke in favor of the bill were Lou Lamberty, Department of Roads, and Eloise Schmidt, Charles Timm, and Norma Hall of WIFE. I have talked to the State Patrol. They have no problem with the bill and they will be enforcing the overweight laws due to our change. Again I am going to repeat, this is not for the long distance hauler. We cut down to 20,000 pounds the maximum to be carried which takes out the real small trucks that are used by farmers that are maybe used two or three times a year, and may be pretty old. We have taken that dangerous thing, as Senator Beyer has suggested, out of the bill. This is definitely going to help because the farmer has no control over getting his crops out of the field. Now if he is hauling his corn or his wheat from the elevator in the winter time to the elevator, it doesn't go into effect. This is during harvest that he can do this. It will bring in \$63,000 so it isn't really going to cost anything. You might hear the argument that it is going to deteriorate the highways. Well, the farmers are paying for the highways, the gravel roads, and what have you, with their tax dollars, and if they feel a need for this, they are going to pay for these permits. They have to get the county board's permission, state highway permission, State Patrol permission. They just can't go out and buy these things on the black market or what have you. I think it will definitely help get those crops out of the field because if you are cutting wheat and you see a dark cloud coming up on the horizon, you want to get that wheat out of that field, and the same way with corn. Now corn has a different wetness. Different corn has different moisture. A farmer can't judge out in his field what the moisture is and what the weight is when he goes to put it into his truck. There is no way he can judge this. So he might innocently be 5 percent or 10 percent over, whatever, and not even know it. The same way with hauling beets. They are frozen. There is big beets and little beets. They scoop up dirt. There is no way that they can actually be sure that they are