

SENATOR SCHMITT: That's...

SENATOR DIERKS: ...I just wonder if it couldn't...if it shouldn't be a consistent ruling.

SENATOR SCHMITT: That's correct, Senator Dierks, and I believe Senator Kristensen is here so maybe he could fill us in on the word.

SENATOR DIERKS: Okay, maybe Senator Kristensen can answer...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Kristensen, would you care to respond?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Senator Dierks, the reason it was left in the permissive is that, with all lights that are warning lights, it becomes a matter of discretion. For example, if the truck is running down the road but doesn't have the blade down and is at normal speed, when you have those flashing lights you wind up slowing traffic down and it becomes somewhat of a hazard just because it's out there. If it's poor visibility, obviously they want the ability to turn it on just to be seen, and it becomes a matter of that fine line between when they're out there and coming back, let's say, and they're done or they're out there with their snow plows regularly driving, you don't want the flashing lights on unless you really want people to slow down and be careful if you're just running up and down the road. A snow plow really has no other purpose other than spreading sand or gravel and doing its work, so when it's on there, I think you're going to find that they're going to have it on just so you can see it. The other permissive part is when they're not doing it but still going up and down the roads you don't want them to have them on. So it's a matter of, I guess, some discretion for them to use them.

SENATOR DIERKS: Okay, thank you. I just had some concerns that it would be more consistent if we...when those vehicles are on the road they're out there in bad conditions. I don't know that you see them when the conditions aren't bad and I wondered if it wouldn't be better to make sure that the motorists were warned all the time they're out there because they do drive slower, they do take up a lot of room and they are pretty uncrunchable when you try to hit them with a car, I think.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: That's correct. There's one other thing, Senator Dierks, I think, and when you look at that language when