

and have the ability to go to 65 in those instances. I would say the burden of proof then is more heavily with showing that these roads are safe for the higher speed limit. I don't think this amendment would take a lot of debate, but that it might satisfy some of the people that we did go to every effort that we could to show that the two-lane road that might be designated 65 at the discretion of the Department of Roads was safe in every respect. Thank you, Madam President, and I'd ask for the adoption of the amendment.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Elmer. Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Madam President. I, like Senator Elmer, was certainly disappointed with the last vote. I think it's more sensible to set a ceiling and allow the Department of Roads to lower limits within that ceiling, but if you want to have a floor and then allow the Department of Roads to increase speeds on the request of individuals in the state of Nebraska, that's the next best alternative. Maybe in that way we can have enough flexibility in our road system that we can meet the diversity that exists in the state of Nebraska. I don't know how many times in this Legislature we've heard or we've heard from people outside the Legislature that one size doesn't fit all; that we have to be able to accommodate the different interests here in the state of Nebraska. This is a very large state. It is a very diverse state and, whenever we can, I think we ought to recognize the differences that exist from east to west and from urban to rural and all of the other kinds of divisions and classifications that you can make out of the population and the geography in the state of Nebraska. I'd obviously preferred to have the alternative that was presented in the amendment that we're not going to reconsider, but, barring that, I certainly support Senator Elmer's efforts and certainly, if we keep going on this issue, I think we have other ideas that may allow us to begin to recognize the diversity that we have in the state of Nebraska. I'm anxious to do something about the speed limits. Seems to me that since the federal government has finally given us the freedom to exercise our own judgment for the state of Nebraska and its citizens that it's incumbent upon us to do that. We've chafed for years under the restrictions of federal mandates, federal restrictions, federal strings, federal ties, federal overbearing attitude towards what's good for us. We finally have the opportunity, at least, in the area of highway speed to decide what is best for