

snow tires are much more safe than any other types of tires that we can use on the road today. They are not. They are not that much more safe and they are costly in terms of road repair and damages that result from the use of them and I think that this body, this Legislature has got to show some leadership. The general public is not aware of the research, is not aware of the reports that we have seen which point to the fact that there is a myth here and the Legislature has got to provide leadership to debunk that myth. The support for this bill is excellent. We have had a number of individuals from across the state that have talked about the need to ban studded snow tires. I have never been to a hearing on a bill before that had such overwhelming evidence and support for that bill as this bill has provided. The experts, the people that are knowledgeable in this area have all agreed on one point and that is that there is a need to ban studded snow tires in Nebraska and that Nebraskans would not be adversely affected as a result of that ban. That seems to be the fundamental bottom line and the final point I would like to make concerns the other problems that have been alluded to dealing with road repair, road damage in this state. That is the talk about salt and the overweight trucks and those matters and I as somebody who has been concerned with those problems for a long time can say, yes, indeed, you are right. Studded snow tires are not the only thing that are causing road damage, that are causing the increased repair costs that we are facing with highways. They are not alone in causing the problem but they are part of the problem...

SENATOR CLARK: You have one minute, Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Senator Clark. They are part of the problem. We can address that part of the problem by banning these tires through LB 619 and we can deal with the other factors, the overweight trucks, the use of salt in other measures which are going to be before this Legislature this year and in the future. Let's not use the old straw man argument that this is only part of the problem. It is not going to be the full solution. Understandably, but it is going to help and the talk about the fact that there are amendments to this bill that have weakened it and so why is there a need for the bill, that is a straw man argument as well. The bill is still a good bill. It deals with the basic question of banning studded snow tires. It is a policy decision we need to make. I urge your opposition to this motion and support for the bill because it is a very important bill and a very good bill. Thank you.