

of that community. Another community was shut off with a six mile gravel road access for a similar period of time. In both cases there was difficulty in the construction and I believe that this kind of pressure could be brought about to help address these kinds of problems for these communities. Not only was the one community shut off for four months this last summer, but they were only able to complete the bridge project and they will be shut off for an extended period of time this coming summer so that they can resurface the same road that they just put the bridge on. I think that when we look at reasonable versus unreasonable, that there are unreasonable situations, and I think with this type of a bill or a social statement in this area, that we can put a bit of pressure on the contractors or on the state's surveillance of those contractors to try to eliminate some of these extremely difficult situations that bring very strong economic burden on these communities. We are in the middle of a financial crisis which is rippling through main street and I think that during this same period of time that to have these kinds of added burdens put on a community is far beyond what anyone should expect. So I rise in support or rise to support the bill and to hope that the kill motion is not moved forward.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Higgins, then Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President. At first blush, I thought this is fair to the citizens that own the businesses, but in reading the bill again, it says the state and any political subdivision which has a duty, a duty, to construct or maintain any street, road, or highway. We are not talking about them electing to do something but they have got the duty to maintain that street or the duty to build a new one. So far the talk has been mostly about the state. What about our cities and our counties? And they are going to have to maintain, they are going to eventually, through property tax, through property tax they are going to pay for the money that the businesses are going to receive. Now if I owned a business on main street and it became a washboard road so that nobody wanted to go near it or it was so full of chuckholes that I was afraid to drive my car over it, that in itself would hurt the businesses. So now I am wondering, is it fair to the taxpayers all over a city or all over a county to have their property taxes raised to maintain that one street that has become so badly worn, and is it not to the advantage of the businesses on that street