

SENATOR WITHEM: Okay. I'm standing to give rather guarded acceptance to the amendment when Senator Vickers...the way Senator Vickers explained it and my brief ability to take a glance at it. It looked like an acceptable approach. Yes, if highway...where state highway workers are endangered working out, picking up barricades off the road, I assume the employees of private contractors are also. The amendment states that any vehicle displaying flashing amber or white lights shall not follow such vehicle more closely than 100 feet. I think that...to me that sounds like an acceptable amendment. It is nice when these amendments get adopted when those that offer them give their wholehearted support for the bill. I question whether that is going to happen in this case. Despite that I do think that it looks like a decent sort of approach. I would accept it. Just also clarify, Senator Vickers indicated that merely because nobody opposed the bill doesn't mean he can't. I agree with that wholeheartedly. We are 49 individuals with our right to read the bills and voice our concerns with them. I have no objection to what he is doing. The only thing I did was point out to you that everybody who is affected by this bill on a day-to-day sort of working basis, the truck drivers, the Highway Patrol and the folks out there working on the roads all do support it. True, if a senator has a philosophical objection to it they certainly should stand and voice that objection. I would urge you or allow you to vote to support the amendment.

PRESIDENT: Motion is to adopt the amendment. Do you wish to close, Senator Vickers?

SENATOR VICKERS: Well, yes, Mr. President, very briefly. Just to indicate to you, so that there is no misunderstanding, and especially for Senator Withem's part, that even if this amendment is adopted no, I'm not going to be in love with the bill. I still think it sets different standards for different vehicles, and I'm not happy with that. But there will be another amendment that I will offer. If I can get this next amendment adopted then, Senator Withem, yes, I will support the bill. But I think this is...at least this discussion is good for us so that we can understand the issue involved, and that issue very simply is to make the rules of the road apply to all of the vehicles out there. Senator Withem indicated that those who testified in support, who are affected, testified in support. Well, some of the groups. There are a lot of