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oppose the advancement of LB 185. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Don Pederson.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, Senator Vrtiska, I'm sorry if I encroached on your time. I just had to say those thoughts. As far as what you're referring to, Senator Hartnett, I do not see this as a collective bargaining issue. There are...you're talking about two people that are parties to an agreement. You're talking about labor and you're talking about management. But in this situation I'm talking about a third party that's involved and that's the people of the state of Nebraska, and I do not believe that...that we should abdicate to management or labor what is appropriate as far as safety in the state of Nebraska, and I think that they cannot and they should not be able to negotiate a way what is reasonable safety for our citizens. And so, for that reason, I have to respectfully disagree with your position and hopefully you'll come around again. I'd like to...I'd like to call attention to a letter that was issued to Senator Kristensen and I received a copy of it and it's from the Nebraska Public Service Commission, and the Nebraska Public Service Commission says that it supports LB 185, which provides a safeguard to train crew members. Under LB 185, all freight trains operating between terminals in Nebraska would be required to have at least a two-person crew while the train is in motion. As written, the Public Service Commission would be required to enforce the provisions of this bill within the scope of our authority and to regulate railroad safety. As you know, the bill was advanced to the floor unanimously and amended by the Business and Labor Committee. We are pleased that Senator Don Pederson made LB 185 his priority bill for the 2002 Legislative Session as we are pleased last year when you placed the bill on your priority list. We encourage you to continue to support LB 185. Signed by Anne C. Boyle, Chairman, and it was dated February 8, 2002. What is the responsibility of the Public Service Commission, which is one of our commissions? Their responsibility is the Transportation Department regulates a rails...railroad safety laws, tracks, I'm sorry, I should put my glasses on, motive power and equipment inspection, and complying with the filing of reports required by law. This is our body that is responsible, in a sense, for