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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 79

of the crossings that are most dangerous are those high-angle crossings. There was a multifatality accident down at Steele City down by Fairbury a couple, three...it's been longer than that, maybe four or five years ago; high-angle crossing within a quarter of a mile of a gated crossing, didn't have to be there. I think it killed four. There were four women killed at that crossing. Grade separations, that goes back to some of what Senator Bourne was asking me. There's 50,000 exposures qualify...when I say exposures, that's the number of trains, say it was 100 trains went by a crossing, a road, I mean, 100 trains times the, what would it be, 500 vehicle crossings. That would be 50,000 exposures. Those qualify. And Senator Louden is talking about Scottsbluff. When you go a grade separation route, qualify, the railroads have been most helpful on the triple-track area. There's been a lot of those put in. But then when you do that, there's a guideline book that I gave to Senator Louden that you have to close a crossing along with that grade separation being built. And the railroads cannot close public crossings on their own. If they did, we would have turmoil because they'd close a lot of them. They can't do that. They have to work with the city, village, the county to do this and then they negotiate. And the negotiations I've been involved with, the railroads, they've been very helpful. They said, let's close this and we'll upgrade a crossing down the road, put flashing lights, signals, or cross arms and so on on there. Plus, they'll pay the local county government or the city, whatever it's in, X number of dollars to do this. So I think this is a good amendment. It provides a lot of flexibility. As Senator Fischer said, you don't want this crossing closed under these provisions, get an engineer to sign off of it, and it doesn't have to be closed. With that, I'd ask for adoption of the Transportation Committee amendment, AM0186. Thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Baker. You've heard the closing on the committee amendment. The question is the adoption of AM0186 to LB 79. All in favor vote aye; all opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Have you all voted who wish to vote? Senator Baker, did you wish to be recognized?

SENATOR BAKER: Yes, Madam President. I'm afraid we're going to