

percent. That's the taxation system. If you want to tax the railroad, if you want to tax them out of their property, that's fine by me...not really, but I mean you go through the taxation system if you want to take money from them. It's called due process. You have to have a system. You can't just write bills and say, well you're going to pay for railroad crossings, you're going to pay for buildings in downtown, or whatever. That's not the way the system works. Now Senator Cullan stated to you that that was the major problem in getting these built. He stated to you that it was the intent of the legislation and a major purpose to change this system so that you now could order it. The state could order them built. He and I both discovered that that wasn't possible. You can't just order the railroads to do something that way. So my proposal then is this, you take the railroads out of the process of making the decision. You take them out of paying their ten percent, and as Senator Dworak says, well you're letting the railroads off the hook. They're not on the hook. They're not building those crossings where they're really needed. They're only building them where they want. Therefore, I urge adoption of this amendment, and Senator Cullan brought up a very valid point which I hope he'll stick with if he will go with the amendment. He says, okay, John, he says, I agree. I think he said this, I agree...we're not going to get them built unless we change that system and change the bill, but then what about the maintenance? Let's make it mandatory that they maintain them. I think you can do that. You can legally do that, and it has been done. But in the statutes now it says may...may. Let's change that to shall, and I think Sam has that amendment. If we do that between now and the time you sit in these perches next year, you're going to see a bunch of railroad crossings built in key places...the Clearwaters, the Ewings, the Tildens, and all the other little towns that have had inflation drive the cost of those crossings from ten and twenty thousand up to thirty, forty and fifty because they never could get the three-party agreement. I urge adoption of the amendment. I assure you it is the only way you're going to get some of these crossings built. One additional factor, and I guess I better mention it. I am changing the percentages to make sure these things get built. I'm saying the state is going to pay ninety-five percent. The money is there. Let's use it. Let's use it before they go up another twenty percent. The local now pays five percent, so the local instead of paying two thousand on that, four thousand on that crossing, pays two thousand. I urge adoption of the amendment.