

public. In some ways some of us, as we have talked and harkened back to the days of rail service and the pleasures of traveling by rail, I recall being able to take the train. The first year I was in college you could still take the train from Crawford, Nebraska, to Lincoln overnight at a very reasonable cost. My conversations with the people in the rail industry indicate, at least for now and perhaps forever, that isn't an option, that this isn't where the revenue is. The other thing that seems to have changed is the people's willingness to take time to travel except in tourists kinds of activities. And so I think air service is probably the mode of transportation of choice if we're going to be competitive out there and to get people into Nebraska either to conduct business from outside or to visit this state as tourists or whatever. And so this sets in place a planning mechanism that first discovers, can we pull this off? Can Nebraska do this and how would we do it? What kind of investment do we have to make as a state? What kinds of boardings do we have to generate? And I think at the same time moving on this front also we'll continue to take our message out to say we need essential air service and we not only can we not afford to lose that, but we have to add to the services that are already there. So I would thank you for your support on this. I was pleased to hear Senator Nelson and Senator Robak talk about their interests from Grand Island and Columbus and Senator Smith from Hastings. We also had the mayor from the City of Norfolk as well come in and address his concerns about this, so I believe that this is an issue of statewide concern. We've had people call us from Omaha saying they think this would be good for Omaha and so I think it is something that serves the whole state well and it's planning that needs to be gotten underway as quickly as possible. I ask for your support with the bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. You've heard the closing and the question is the advancement of 1184 to E & R Initial. All in favor please vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 30 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of 1184.

SPEAKER BARRETT: LB 1184 advances. The A bill, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: LB 1184A, Mr. President, by Senator Scofield. (Read title.)