

Kristensen amendment.

SENATOR LAMB: I would just call the question if there's no other lights.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: We have some other speakers, Senator, and we have had just an opening on the amendment. Senator Coordsen, would you like to speak? Senator Coordsen waives. Would anyone else like to speak to the Kristensen amendment? Seeing none, Senator Kristensen, would you like to close? Senator Kristensen waives closing. We will now proceed to vote on the Kristensen amendment. All those in favor vote aye, all opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of Senator Kristensen's amendment.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: The amendment is adopted.

CLERK: Nothing further on the bill, Mr. President.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: We're back to the bill. Senator Dierks, on the bill as amended.

SENATOR DIERKS: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I just wanted to rise in support of the legislation. The economic development impact alone makes it worthy of our consideration. It can't help but be a very vital thing for all of north central and actually northern Nebraska. If you would remove that rail, it would certainly never be replaced and it must have some viability because we've had as many as six, I believe, different short line operators come looking at the prospect of operating this railroad and they have gone through the study that was presented by an outside source and they've gone through it with a fine tooth comb. They've talked with people who had used the line and there is absolutely no reason why this road can't be made a productive road and these individual short line operators are very interested in it. So I think that we need to consider this very seriously and I hope that you will support passage of this legislation. It's very important, I think, to all of rural Nebraska. I think it's important to the economy of the entire state, certainly important to the area that we're talking about today and I think that there should be other rail lines in Nebraska that could very well be in the same position themselves in a few years and we need to set a precedent for, I think, for