

third area, is if we do come up with the funding source, that funding source has to be able to apply statewide. It is just not going to be for that unique location. This is going to have to be a framework and a funding source that will occur if it is in Jacky Smith's district, Jim Cudaback's district, or even Ernie Chambers' district, and it has got to be a funding source that has some rhyme and reason, some long-term stability that won't place local economic development...these people could be placing their tax base in jeopardy for the next 20 years. And so I would ask the sponsors of the bill when you enter into those sorts of things, let's look for a statewide funding plan and mechanism, one that just won't be used one time, one that we can use as a model, because there are going to be other abandoned railroads in this state that are going to have to do that. With that, I think that we will look...hopefully, at Select File, Senator Lamb will come in here with a big grin on his face with some contracts in hand and say we have found somebody that can run this line and here is our funding proposal. Then, at that time, the questions I have just raised I think are legitimate ones that we, as a body, should face and address, and with that I think that we should encourage Senator Lamb and Wickersham to continue then with their negotiations in whatever way they can, but be careful and be reminded that at some point in time this body is going to be asked to fund this project, either with direct dollars or through some guarantees, and I think we should be very leery about it at this point in time and wait and see what sort of funding mechanism they do present to us. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. We will now go to Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Yes, Mr. Speaker and members, I rise to ask some questions of Senator Wickersham, since I've forewarned him of this at least.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Wickersham, would you respond, please?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Yes.

SENATOR MOORE: Well, I just...obviously, this bill, it is Senator Lamb's bill, and if Senator Lamb wants to add anything to what Senator Wickersham says, that is fine with me, but I guess I am rising with some questions on just what exactly a yes vote on this bill means. I know the funding mechanism from the