

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members, I guess I would have questions, either whoever wanted to answer, Senator Lamb. What would you anticipate a vote on this at this stage really does? Are you hopeful that this will go through and you will have time? Is 30 days enough time? Do you have any time lines that we or you need to observe so we have a feel? I am going to let this experiment, this grand experiment, go for a try as long as I can see that we can withdraw gracefully, if it doesn't work, and not have a commitment to the State of Nebraska that we are going to be uncomfortable with.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Wickersham, would you respond please?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Yes, I will. There are no commitments in the bill and, essentially, what we...this is, unfortunately, it is an ongoing process and we have a legislative track and we have a negotiation track and they are not exactly melding at this point. I was hopeful that at this point we could have come to you and said this is the conclusion of our work with the C&NW, here is the proposal. We are simply not able to do that, but those discussions are going forward and, hopefully, by the time we get to Select File, if we need to, we will come back to the body and say these are the exact specifics of the proposal that we are able to work out with the C&NW to prevent abandonment of the line. We are just not at that point. But if we don't move this bill ahead, we will never get there either. If we don't move the bill ahead today, it will move down on the agenda. It will be so far down that we may not get back to it before the end of the session. We will just have, effectively, lost an opportunity to prevent abandonment of the line. That is my great fear at this point.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you. Well, I would be moving the bill forward with that to keep your options open, but I assume you understand our concerns. So that is all I wanted to express, too. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I simply was not going to say anything at all on this bill. I do appreciate particularly in northern Nebraska the problems of moving farm products, and so on, and in those communities. I think the real truth of the matter is no matter how much we ask or no matter what we want, it is the corporate board that looks at the bottom