

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, this amendment is also on your desk. It says, "Any lease agreement or option to buy entered into pursuant to the authority granted herein shall provide for a fair rate of return as determined by reasonable commercial standards in the industry." This amendment is designed to give you a choice. Is what you want to do with this particular bill, is it to make the money, to make the 5 million available but to demand some kind of return out of the \$5 million? Or if you don't want that, then you can reject the amendment and what you will basically be doing is subsidizing the railroad, even if the money is returned, you will be subsidizing it at what might be considered a reasonable rate of return, which I think is somewhere about a half a million dollars a year. Now, under the language of the bill, the way it is right now, it could be as much as 15 years before the money is returned. So if you...if you just say a half a million dollars for 15 years, the subsidy, the actual subsidy that you're talking about here, assuming that they string it out as long as they can, which they probably will do, because they want to make the terms as favorable as possible to an operator, the subsidy you're talking about is somewhere in the range of 6 to \$8 million. That's what the use of \$5 million gets you over a period of time. So if that's what you want then you should reject the amendment. If you adopt the amendment then some rate of return to the state would be provided under the amendment. It's intended to be as simple as that. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Moore, on the Beutler amendment.

SENATOR MOORE: Advancement of the bill.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Schmit, on the Beutler amendment. Senator Lamb, on the Beutler amendment.

SENATOR LAMB: Well, Mr. President and members, as I mentioned before, seven of the eight amendments that Senator Beutler had we did accept and he incorporated those seven in the amendment which was just adopted and we appreciated his work on that. However, this is one we just, frankly, cannot accept in that it basically says that you're going to pay interest on this \$5 million. Well, maybe we should, maybe you should. In all probability, the project would be unworkable if that was the requirement. You know, this state provides money for many, many