

SENATOR MOORE: Briefly it was your assumption, how much will you increase that density to make it cash flow and get some commitments, but what level did you increase the amount this rail line is used in the future over what it now is?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: The consultant that was hired to evaluate the line told us or advised us that you had to have about 6,000 carloads a year to begin the rehabilitation process, that the line would become fully viable at about 10,000 carloads per year.

SENATOR MOORE: And, presently, what is the density of that line?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: It is about 3,225, I think is the average since, I forget...that is the current average.

SENATOR MOORE: Okay, and that is one of those things I know that many of you will want this line to work. I certainly do not want to see it go away, but it is one of those things where you are assuming that the density of the traffic on the line not quite but almost doubles to make it even cash flow. And now with Senator Beutler's amendments adopted, you actually have to, when we start paying it back, you have to either start paying off interest, it is going to make it even more impossible for it to ever cash flow, and I think, you know, my thought is this, I know Senator Wickersham and Senator Lamb can sit here and say \$5 million is all we are ever going to ask for, but what happens in five years. You know, are we going to just back out of a \$5 million investment. Are we going to scrap it then and get the money back? I know Senator Wickersham and Senator Lamb gave us some examples of the bus line, but that was a subsidy of just the actual operation, not the actual highway, itself, in that case. I think there is a major difference there, and it is one of those things the arguments can be very tempting at that point in time, well, this has...maybe it has worked by then. Maybe the density has gone up. At that point in time, Senator Wickersham or Senator Lamb, or whoever will represent those...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR MOORE: ...areas can say we cannot afford to back out of this now, let's postpone it for another five years. That often happens here. That is one of those things that I have learned over time and, obviously, Senator Warner, I will give him credit