

for saying this, the only way you keep a program from growing is never starting it. And I think this is one of those things, once you start it, the cost is truly open-ended. What happens if a storm comes and blows all the bridges out between Crawford and Valentine, who is going to pay for that? Are the operators going to pay for that? They don't have the money. The argument is going to be, well, we have another two and a half million dollars left in our salvage value, but let the state put in even more money. I just think the policy is one that I think is truly a bad track to go down, and I think this Legislature would be wise to derail this train on Select File.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Moore. Senator Bernard-Stevens, followed by Senator Wickersham and Chambers. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator Wickersham, would you yield to a couple of questions?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Yes.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: I have been sitting back and I haven't gotten involved in the debate, but I did have some questions I wanted to ask in my own mind to help solidify what I want to do in Select File on this bill. Number one is, in the investment in the rail, itself, in other words when we do track repair, roadbed, railbed repair, right-of-way repair, who has the responsibility under this bill to initiate those repairs?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Those repairs would have to be undertaken by the operator or the group that hires the operator.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: All right, has there been any estimate in regards to over a ten-year period, five-year period, over that particular portion of track, which...has there been any estimate as to much investment would be needed simply to keep the line operable, in other words, the rails for being usable?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: The estimates haven't just been for operation. The estimates have been upgrading the operation to 45 mile an hour track, and those are \$10.2 million over five years.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Right, and beyond that, once you get it to that point, how much will be needed for that investment to