

you talk about how much we don't know that this will cost in terms of the lost future for those communities and for those counties. So I agree, this legislation is about a significant amount of dollars. But in large part it is about dollars that we can quantify, the \$110 million that we will lose, if we do not make this effort. I think we are penny wise and pound foolish if we do not go forward.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, and members of the Legislature, I would like to ask Senator Wickersham no more than two questions, and maybe only one. Senator Wickersham, were any of the reports or studies that you referred to conducted, underwritten or in any way connected to would be operators of the short line, should the state make this purchase?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: No.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Can you guarantee...no, you can't guarantee. Let me use a different word. On a scale of 1 to 10, or a percentage basis from 1 to 100, what is the percentage of likelihood that this is going to be a viable economic success, and by that I mean it's going to generate a profit, the state will be paid back and all the shippers needs will be taken care of within the five year period. Is it a 30 percent, 40, 50, 60, or what percent likelihood of success would you estimate?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Well, Senator Chambers, there are all kinds of factors to be taken into that. And I, not to be purposely evasive, I don't see how I could put a percentage on it. But it is...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, it's my time.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: ...it is better than 50-50, I...I...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, okay, my time, that's why I don't mean to cut you off. But you can see that Senator Wickersham is trying to be as objective and forthcoming as he can. He easily could have said 70 or 80, and there is no way I could, with evidence, prove that not to be the case. But we know it would not be likely. So in all of the answers that Senator Wickersham has given to questions that I've asked, I think he has been as