

PRESIDENT MOUL: Do I see sufficient seconds? I do. We will now vote on the motion to cease debate. All those in favor please vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOUL: We have ceased debate, and I will call on Senator Ashford for closing.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Madam President and members. I wanted to give a little bit of time to Senator Wickersham to explain, hopefully, the appropriations question that was raised by Senator Moore, but I do want to make a couple of points in closing and reiterate what I said in my talk earlier, and that is that somehow, someday, it is necessary, in my opinion, to send a strong message to the parties to these negotiations that it is the state's interest, the State of Nebraska's interest to continue this rail line. If this motion for reconsideration is not successful, hopefully the legislative intent that we have made in this discussion will be helpful in the discussions with these people. If the motion is successful, and I hope it is, it is my understanding that Senator Wickersham will explain to some degree how the specifics will work on the money, that if those negotiations, and I believe we all understand that now, in any event, that if those negotiations are not successful, the negotiations that hopefully will start again are not successful, that the money will not be spent. But in any event, I guess the point that I want to make in closing, more than any other, is that I believe, as I said earlier, that the whole argument of whether or not it is in our public interest as a state legislature, as a state as a whole, to be interested in this topic has been answered by us when we signed a letter that we sent to the Interstate Commerce Commission, where we said that, clearly that it is not in the public interest of the State of Nebraska to have this line be abandoned. Hopefully, Senator Wickersham, I believe, is talking to the Fiscal Office that has some answers now at this point. Senator Wickersham, would you like to complete the closing on the appropriations issue.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Well, I would if I knew the answers I guess, but they are still a little bit unclear to me. I am being advised by the gentleman behind me that, indeed, there is a problem in interpretation and may eventually come down to a question of intent, and they are not sure which way that would