

opportunity to develop the traffic, get a running start and making the line profitable and then eventually have our money returned to us. I distributed to you yesterday the summary of the mater...some of the materials that we presented last year, along with a text of the amendment. This morning, you will also see on your desk a map of railroads in the State of Nebraska. The green line that you will see on the map represents the line that we're trying to save. The yellow lines, I think, represent what we will eventually see as a rail system in the State of Nebraska if we do not make a concerted effort to save short lines or light density rail lines in the State of Nebraska. And I think if you will just take a moment to look at that map, you can begin to realize what it will mean to the State of Nebraska to lose all of that railroad track in terms of transportation alternatives and in terms of future economic development in this state. We still have, in many places in this state, a viable and attractive alternate source of transportation in the form of rails. But if the yellow lines become the future of this state, we will not have those alternatives in many parts of the country. Each one of you can look and you can try to begin to imagine what the impact will be on your individual district and the residents of your district. I continue to believe that the investment we could make in the C&NW northern line is a good investment for the State of Nebraska. I believe that by doing so we will avoid the trap that we frequently fall into and that is taking the short-term view. That is it's we don't have the money. We can't spend \$5 million on this project. Well, colleagues, if we do not spend \$5 million on this project, we will spend considerably more later on. That was the result of the study that we had commissioned and presented to you last year. We will eventually spend at least \$67 million on additional highway construction costs. We will have producers who will lose at least \$26 million because they will have reduced income due to marketing conditions for their products or increased production costs. All of those things affect not only the local communities but also the State of Nebraska as a whole. They impact economic activity in the forms of jobs, in the terms of sales and in terms of the health of all the communities that are along the line. I continue to believe that if we invest \$5 million in this line, that it is a sound investment, is a good investment in the future of the State of Nebraska. I urge your support.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Moore.