

with county and other elected officials and ultimately, as I began to indicate, the bill is permissive in nature. It would call for a petition process and then an election so you would know exactly how much local support you had for saving it. Put, yes, the bill, itself, is a result of meetings with elected officials and I would have to say, yes, there is support for that kind of an effort.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: So the local counties are active and they are out getting the people involved in trying to raise...to issue the bonds and...

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: I think, at this point, they're waiting to see if we can pass a set of tools that would allow them to do that. I would expect there to be that kind of an effort if we pass the kinds of provisions that are in LB 1214.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Have you noticed any opposition, Senator, in any of the counties all through the line? Are they all pretty much in agreement that they will support this?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Well, there was concern initially that it be permissive and that they be allowed to submit it to a vote of the people and we provided for that and I think that's desirable. There are many...many, many people recognize the economic benefits of keeping the line and I think we would be able to establish the district when it comes down to that question.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: Thank you. I think what we're attempting to do here is to just help the people in the area and I think that we need to do that. We do need to make sure though that the people that are involved are also involved financially. We can't just have the State of Nebraska be involved, need to make sure that the people that live along that line are also involved financially, the taxpayers, the shippers and things like that. But if they...if they become involved, which I think they will, then I think that the state also needs to become involved. But I think that the \$5 million then would be probably a small price to pay as long as we get the local involvement and local support. Mr. Speaker, I would like to give Senator Wickersham the rest of my time. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Wickersham.