

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Morrissey.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Senator Withem. Mr. Speaker and members, again, I would rise just to encourage you to pull the bill...vote to pull the bill from committee. And, again, I think it's very important that we do push Congress and give Senator Exon a strong vote of confidence on this. Again, I want to push Congress for other reasons because I think we can react to local needs, honest local needs, much quicker than Congress. I know we can. And I don't...I do not want to needlessly, needlessly regulate the industry I work for. If I did, I would push for the detonators on the rear end because that's a very important safety device too, but it's very, very costly at this time. So, realistically, it's probably not cost-effective until the device becomes available everywhere. So, again, why push? Why push? Again, when I mentioned the reason of measuring where the rear end of your train is, as it relates to track that is not sufficient for normal speed operations, and the materials that are now being hauled on the railroads, I ask you to think of the incidents in California this year that polluted the rivers, the derailments caused...I can't remember exactly what they were caused by, but the toxics fell into the river and did massive pollution damage. All of our railroads run alongside of rivers. That's where railroads go, the natural low-lying area right beside the river. On my area of track, we are...the railroad is right beside the Nemaha River. The UP out here in other areas right down the Platte. We're talking drinking water could be adversely affected severely. I don't think this would be a big cost to the railroads. My job is to sit on my little truck on the tracks and look for defects, and in the process of doing that, leaving Lincoln and Omaha...Lincoln, or coming into Lincoln I am right behind a coal train or a freight train. So, consequently, I'm looking right at Fred, and Fred is a name they give to the telemetry devices. I am right behind the train, looking right at Fred and Fred is not always working. And that's what this bill is asking, to make sure if it's on there, it works for safety reasons. Now if you get out past a certain area and it quits working, the bill doesn't insist that you stop and get it fixed immediately, lets you transport to the next station and get it fixed. But if you're out, just outside of town and starting your trip and the trip here is from Lincoln to Kansas City, the one I'm speaking about, or Lincoln to Ravenna, and I'm not even sure if that's not extended now, so it's a pretty long haul. So if you're right outside of town in these