

approved by the voters, would be created having a seven-member governing board. The district would have fairly broad powers to operate, own, contract for the operation of or lease rail lines and has granted all of the powers that are necessary to go with that authority. In addition, the district would have authority to issue bonded indebtedness in an amount up to \$5 million without consent of the voters. It would also have authority to levy one and one-half cents for its operation and retirement of the bonds without additional consent from the people within the district. This proposal was developed following meetings that we had in Valentine, of course, with people that were interested in saving the C&NW northern line, but is not restricted to that situation. The bill would have application throughout the State of Nebraska and I would again point out that it is permissive, requiring both a petition to put the issue on the ballot and then an approval at the polling places before one of these districts would be created. I can only imagine that there would be a rather full and extended discussion of the merits of creation of the district either at the time the petition was being circulated or at the time the issue was placed on the ballot. We're not mandating anything, we are simply presenting a tool which can be used if an area wishes to utilize it. With that, I would urge adoption of the amendment.

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

SENATOR HALL: Madam President, I rise to oppose the amendment to the committee amendments. I understand the... appreciate the concern that Senator Wickersham has for the railroad and the preservation district that the amendment would offer but I just don't feel that it's appropriate in 1240. I'm not going to question the germaneness because I haven't been very successful at that motion this year. The issue is, I guess, one of is this an appropriate place for this to be if it can't advance on its own? Should it be included into enterprise zone legislation? I guess the body will have to make up its mind, but I, for one, don't think that it is an appropriate place and will be voting against it. Would urge you to do the same.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Madam President, I would like to ask specifically for a ruling on germaneness. The bill under consideration has to do with... does not reference any section of statutes and has to do solely with the new concept of an