

I have an amendment dealing with the bill. This is my bill, LB 265, which was introduced at the request of the Nebraska Technology Commission. If you recall, that was a group that we established a couple of years ago with the goal of pulling together all of the varying views and thoughts and progress the state was making in the area of information technology. At that time, we had school districts moving to get onto Internet. We had changes taking place in NEB*SAT. We had businesses throughout the state sprouting up. We had the medical community with the need and an interest in...in...a need in an interest in getting better, more technology. And the Legislature, at that time, said that what we need is a uniform thought process, a uniform plan in our state that will bring...bring a strategy together so at least the policymakers wouldn't be called upon to fund a project in one part of the state and another one in another part of the state when we might be able to blend the two together. That commission was established. It completed its work and is scheduled to go out of effect. They came to me and they said that even...and this is not one where they need more time to complete their study, they have done that, but they said they thought it would be helpful if, as they made a number of recommendations for state government agencies to work together, and implement this, they thought it would be good if this umbrella group continued on into existence for another...another year or so. So that's what this bill does, originally. It was a noncontroversial piece of legislation. It was on Select File, came through General File with probably less discussion than I've already given it today. On Select File, I was approached by some folks from the railroad industry who had a concern about crossing safety, and it's a long-standing issue. It's a perpetual issue. It's one that's out there. Their desire was to establish a Nebraska Highway Rail Crossing Safety Committee. I indicated I have no problem, I have absolutely no problem with the...with the issue, provided, and this is always...sometimes it's spoken rather harshly, sometimes it's not spoken and I may have had an error in this case of not saying it more bluntly than I...than I did. But there's always the proviso that if you allow other senators or other interest groups to use your bill as a vehicle to get their interests passed, that you don't bring controversy to the underlying issue or the underlying...the senator who was carrying the original proposal. At that time that it was brought to me, I think the people that brought to me were in very good faith, didn't think it was very controversial. Well, I have since found out that the make-up of the Nebraska Highway Rail Crossing Safety Committee, as it exists in LB 265,