

that point Ron burns. That was the point that I made. But thanks to Senator Brashear, I now know and will never forget the name of the president of the Southern Pacific...I meant the Kansas City Pacific...Union Pacific Railroad.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Brashear.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, Senator Chambers, by questioning, has drawn out the first reason that I stand and urge the body to defeat the Wickersham amendment. I simply think it is premised, and certainly I'm grateful for Senator Wickersham's cosponsorship of 1368, but I think it is premised upon a false assumption. At the point in time, my understanding of 829 and the procedures by which it is implemented, by the point in time that the employer company is withholding and aggregating the monies that it otherwise would have remitted as withholding for the employees, it's entitled to do so. It is up, it is operational, it has met the employee and investment threshold, and it is then engaged in doing business, and I think therefore in need of a jobs training, safety programs and the like. Further reasons are that I believe without intending to do so we are, with the Wickersham amendment we would be eliminating alternatives that are attractive. As it is we would have two methodologies to offer employers, that's particularly significant as to the 1368 methodology for collectively organized companies. With those who proceed under the original 829 methodology, interestingly Senator Wickersham's methodology would force that company to take a credit under the 1368 formula for every new employee at the subject project. Under the 829 methodology the employer can negotiate with only a portion of the workforce, if it elects so to do, in order to determine the amount that it will withhold and utilize for programs. So if we adopt the Wickersham amendment we're actually eliminating flexibility, we will not be as versatile. I see no attendant economic benefit to the state, and I think it makes us less attractive in the competitive world of economic development, and for those reasons I would urge the body to decline the Wickersham amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I would like Senator Brashear to continue my education, to continue to improve my education, if he's willing.