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remember, we changed all these statutes in 1977 which moved jurisdiction over railroad grade crossings to Department of Roads. If that professional engineer can come to the Department of Roads and say this, I'm familiar with the crossing, these are the safety issues, I think it's fine to leave it open, why, that's the method they take. So there is, it's not an iron-clad statement if a crossing is within a quarter of a mile of an unguarded crossing will be closed. The committee amendment does allow for some flexibility. And it's been signed off by Cooperative Council, and I don't believe there's any opposition to the bill. But I'd be glad to answer any questions. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Baker. We've heard opening on the Transportation Committee amendments. Open for discussion? Senator Erdman followed by Senator Chambers. Senator Erdman waives his time. Senator Chambers. Is Senator Chambers on the floor? Yes, he is. He waives his time also. If these lights were on, just waive your time, Senators, but these lights may have been on from last time. Senator Louden.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Yes, thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. Since I've probably lived along a railroad track as long as anybody here, I think this is something we probably don't want to get into. When you start setting down, if you're going to close a crossing that's within a quarter of a mile of one that's gated crossing, you don't know but what if that is in area where if there's fire or something like that, you have to get access to with a railroad crossing. Whenever you close a railroad crossing, it's usually gone forever. And nowadays with this 178-pound rail, and some of it bigger than that, there's no way that you can ever get a vehicle of any kind across a railroad track. So I think this something that we have to be very careful about. This is a bill I would have to tell Senator Baker that I would oppose because it isn't a matter of closing crossings and make them any safer. If you don't have anybody to cross the railroad tracks, why, chances are they won't get hit by a train, but chances are they will probably get stuck on a railroad track trying to get across it. Many times in the Sandhills, there aren't that many places that you can cross a railroad track because the way the land lays. But yet, some of