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FLOOR DEBATE

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was on General File. And in Senator Louden's case, we've researched his questions about the issues in his district, and the issues that Senator Louden raised, and I think you said his light was on, the bill does not affect the crossings in, say, Hemingford. It has no effect on it. So I would be glad to volunteer my time and provide some effort and staff to work with these issues. They are of concern to various senators, but the bill does not affect what Senator Hudkins is trying to do here, nor in the case of Senator Stuhr. We sat down and the crossings are a mile apart in York County. It does not have any effect on those, so I remind the body that the base bill is a good bill. There's...a clause within the committee amendments provided a mechanism for local authorities, who don't necessarily agree that a crossing should be closed, to go ahead and hire a professional engineer, and that engineer would have the ability to say this crossing should remain open. So there is a clause within there, and it's quite ironic that we had railroad or, I'm sorry, elevators who actually wanted some crossings closed, couldn't get them closed, and then we had some on the other side that didn't want them closed. So that's...we accommodated those with the amendment. I don't believe anybody is being lobbied by this, by NACO, or League of Municipalities, or anyone. It's a bill that's been worked out. And I do not deny that there are issues on a local level, like Senator Hudkins, Senator Stuhr has, that we can address with some good communications and continue to work with the railroad. So I would rise in opposition to Senator Hudkins' bill (sic) and ask that we advance LB 79 to Final Reading. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Baker. Further discussion? Senator Louden.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Yes, thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I would probably agree with Senator Hudkins on her amendment that she has in her bill. I had the same problem out at Marsland, Nebraska, here, when I first came down here, and they were I don't know how many years getting a railroad bridge fixed over the top of...or a county road bridge or a road bridge across the top of a railroad tracks. The thing wasn't safe, people were driving across it, even school buses were going across it, and it took several years and a lot of work to get