

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 10, 2006 LB 79

SENATOR BAKER: From what we can gather this morning, it's owned by the railroad itself. They put it in, trying to help people out with low-weight vehicles, not heavy-duty tractors and loaded trucks.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Then it's enough embankment there that they can't make a cut and have a grade crossing then?

SENATOR BAKER: That's correct. It's a very deep cut, and simply to facilitate a couple, some farmers in the area, it sounds like. And down the road it looks like maybe there would be some potential to upgrading that road and so on, do some work with the railroad and the county. It's...Senator Hudkins, I see, is back and she's more familiar with the situation. But it is currently a minimum maintenance road, which means very limited traffic and very limited maintenance.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Senator, perhaps I can ask Senator Hudkins then, since she's back. Would you yield, Senator Hudkins?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Hudkins, would you yield?

SENATOR LOUDEN: I was curious. On this bridge, is it a...does the railroad own the bridge or does the county own the bridge? Is it on a county road, or what's the...

SENATOR HUDKINS: Well, it is on a county road, but like Senator Baker said, it is a minimum maintenance. It's my impression that the bridge is owned by the railroad. Otherwise, they would not have been able to close it, is my opinion.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Well, then it must be, what, 15 or 20 feet above the railroad?

SENATOR HUDKINS: It is...I don't know the footage; I have not been at the site. But it is quite a deep cut. But still, this is maybe not the only way that people can get to their fields, but if you look--and I do have a map here--if you do look, it would be an extremely long way around to get to where the farmers needed to go. Now if it is true that the bridge was closed because of weight limitations, that I don't know. I have