

Vickers amendment, if I understand it, is to be sure that we lock the railroads in and once the money is spent by local entity, be it a city, a county or a shipper, that there is some kind of a working arrangement made with the railroads so that we can have the assurance that the line will be operated. I do support the amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is the adoption of the Vickers amendment to LB 507. All those in favor vote aye, opposed no.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays on adoption of Senator Vickers' amendment. Mr. President, the next amendment is by Senator DeCamp who is...Mr. President, Senator DeCamp's amendment is on page 768 of the Journal.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, this is kind of a major amendment so I want you to understand what you are voting for. Last year the Legislature in a very unusual action I thought, without any lobbyists helping us, we created a new concept, the ton-mile tax. Everybody was saying it was unconstitutional, that it could not be done, on and on and on, but the Legislature did devise and write a ton-mile tax and we put it into law and we got an Attorney General's Opinion that said, not, yes, and no and maybe and so on, it just said simply you have done it right and it is constitutional. The railroads finally came to be believers that we were kind of serious about this rail traffic problem then and they entered into the record, or I entered into the record, a letter from them, and it said, you know, this is the worse thing that ever happened, but we will work with you over the summer trying to come up with some alternate solution so that we can start building rail overpasses, so that we can do these things. I think Senator George and some of the other people can tell you we sure did meet with them, we sure did work with them, and I guess they felt they were working with us. Now who is right or wrong, I don't know. I know none of the solutions they brought were acceptable to, I think, myself for sure. I think Senator George felt they did not do anything, and the railroads finally said, okay, we will really do it. We do need a little more time. If that law goes into effect July 1 as you have planned, we will have to, at least, take it to court and try to buy a couple of years' time. Near the end of our negotiations I felt completely satisfied that the railroads were coming forth with some very positive proposals and I guess I believe and hope that if we do have some additional time we can come up with something. I am not going to go into too