

SENATOR BEYER: ...or, in the instance of field on fire, losing their crops and what have you in that time element. Now, it has happened. I've seen it. I've been on the fire department for a number of years and I have seen some of that. The volunteer firemen are really concerned, but this is the first letter that I re...it come from the Optimists International there, Nebraska district. Volunteer firemen do have a concern. These are people that are out there protecting us at no cost benefit to themselves. They do this all on a volunteer basis and it is quite frustrating to go and make these calls and then be stymied by a train that is blocking you and you can't get it moved. The others will say that, well, this has been proven, it is a safety factor, this hasn't happened. In checking with some of our fire departments in the Volunteer Fire Association, they do not keep records of when this happens, anymore than the railroad keeps records of when the caboosemen have seen a child crawling into that train and told a conductor or the engineer to hold up moving it. The records aren't kept, so I guess the records that the railroads are keeping are ones that are on maybe the more positive side that they can verify, but these others are not verifiable. You know, it is quite interesting, I sat through the hearing on this one and I'm not one to get into the labor management style. I guess that having been in business and everything, I would probably forego a lot of the labor activities. I wouldn't say that I disagree with them, but I don't always agree with them, but based on a number of trains dispatched, the testimony that was given to us, and the cost per mile that was given to us in the Public Works Committee...

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR BEYER: ...if you figure the figures that they have given, based on the number of trains running through the state and the mileage and the cost per mile, the cost saving would have to be for 100 percent removal, if my rough figures are right, compared to the figures that I think Senator Hannibal handed out here and I think if you look at the union agreement that was also presented to us, that the union agreement allowed for them to remove 25 percent of the trains. So I don't think those figures hold quite true and if they are, maybe Senator Hannibal can bring it out a little bit later. Thank you.