

Lincoln and I assume any town that has a railroad running through the middle of it is concerned about blocked crossings. I think a caboose makes it more likely that you're going to be able to deal with those problems and get that train moving more quickly. I would say in summary that the railroads suggest that they have highly advanced technology and I would agree that is true. I've been in the Burlington Northern facilities in Alliance and it's an impressive operation, but I'm not convinced yet that the technology has moved far enough to make me feel perfectly comfortable with...

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: ...removing the protections that the caboose currently offers my constituents. Maybe some day that is true, but I'm not convinced at this point given the evidence that I have seen. So while it is not my desire to unduly hamper the railroad, I think there is a good argument here for a sound trade off between public safety and convenience and the economics of this issue. Frankly, I haven't seen any figures that are very convincing yet on the economics of this issue and when I see them, some day I might be willing to reconsider this. But for right now I urge you to indefinitely postpone the bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Hefner, please, then Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President, and members of the body, I rise to oppose the kill motion on LB 807. I believe it was several years ago that we passed a bill that kept the cabooses on the trains in Nebraska. Forty-six other states, or approximately 46 other states do not require cabooses. So, why, I ask you here today, why should Nebraska keep requiring them? We know that it increases the cost to the railroads. And in this competitive era we need to operate as efficiently as we can. Six million dollars a year would be a tremendous saving to those railroads, and they could pass this savings on to their customers. It was mentioned on the floor here about the safety aspect of this. So let's talk about safety just a little bit. The studies that I have seen show that those trains operating without cabooses do not have any more safety problems than those trains having cabooses. I'd just like to read part of a statement here, it's entitled, Are Cabooses Needed To Safely Operate