

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: No, that is specific approval from the Legislature. You are not committing the Legislature to do anything that it doesn't subsequently approve.

SENATOR MOORE: It certainly would be a statement of interest and spending some money, would that be inaccurate to say?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: It provides the tools for the state to evaluate potential abandonments. It gives us the tools to act, if we determine that an abandonment would not be in the best interest of the State of Nebraska, and to bring a proposal to the Legislature for funding.

SENATOR MOORE: I have got one last question, I mean the whole concept or scheme, and somehow scheme applies here better than it does at some other times you use that funding scheme terminology, but the whole concept of having the state's upper limit of exposure from our financial respect of being the worth of the line for scrap, that is something I may find interesting. Now as far as an actual appropriation, I probably would not find that interesting. I guess the aspect of limiting the state's financial exposure to what the line could sell for certainly is not contained in this bill as it is written at this time, is that true?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: No. The prospect of salvage value is one of the aspects of the particular line that we are looking at now, the Norfolk to Chadron, which may make it possible to finance a rehabilitation of the line without the commitment of state dollars. The indications are that the line has a salvage value of somewhere between 9 and 10 million dollars. If that salvage value can be used as collateral without any exposure on the part of the state, then those funds that you can borrow using the line as collateral can be used for the rehabilitation of the line. That is a part of the mechanism that we are looking at to be able to rehabilitate this particular line without the expenditure of state funds.

SENATOR MOORE: Okay, I think I am understanding it, I mean, a little bit more, but I guess I would, since it is Senator Lamb's bill, he has heard my questions and if he...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR MOORE: ...has anything to add, time is up anyway?