

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: I think there would be a very limited number of employees on the line.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Okay, and a question Senator Wesely asked you a little earlier, I want to be a little more specific, do you know if they figured in their cash flow, that they had to attract Burlington Northern traffic across this line?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: I...well, no short line operator has come to us with a proposal and showed us how they would operate the line, so I think the answer to that is no, but as part of the considerations that the council would have to make before deciding whether to make any investment, I think that would be an appropriate consideration, and as you go through the bill, you will see that there are a number of criteria that have to be met in terms of a business plan, et cetera, that we talked about briefly before, and I think all that would be included there.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Okay, thank you, sir. Again, some of my concerns, again I feel the benefits mentioned are very real and can be realized. It is not without risk though, in my opinion. First of all, if, indeed, they were figuring on nonunion wage, which most of them do, and also not having union rules, which will reduce the size of their crews and their maintenance, et cetera, they must realize, as I am sure they do, and I want you to realize that if they were depending on that, that we can go in at any time and attempt to unionize them. And I know for a fact that my union, I don't know about the others, would aggressively do that and have set aside money for unionizing short lines, not a lot, but money to do that. So that is a consideration that could happen but, again, with the limited number of employees involved here, maintenancewise, it wouldn't be a big factor, but it could be a big factor in crews, train crews, and moving a train from point A to point...point A, being Norfolk, to point B, being Chadron. That could be a big factor, bigger factor, depending on the speed that they get the track up to eventually. Another factor that is a parochial interest that I talked about is BN traffic. I am concerned that they are looking at BN traffic. They mentioned it in one of the meetings I talked about but it was more of a blue sky, well, we think we can do this, we think we can get some BN traffic. My own personal interest in that is that I wouldn't necessarily be happy that they take traffic from my railroad and put some of my people, my constituents, et cetera, at risk of losing their