

highways. Now we subsidize highways. We subsidize the truckers' railways, you know. We pay for smooth highways and we pay a lot for their roadbed. This is one important life chain that I think northern Nebraska needs, and not only do I represent District 10, I feel very strongly I represent the entire economic development of the State of Nebraska. And I feel very strongly that this money will not be spent unless those negotiations have been reached that are beneficial to the entire State of Nebraska. But if we do not have that background, if we do not have that consensus here in the Legislature, I think you negotiate from weakness, and I think that would be a terrible thing to do. So I will support the reconsideration and I will support the A bill, and I think it is important for northern Nebraska, and I think it is important for all Nebraskans.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Pirsch. Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Madam President and members of the body. I would like to urge your support of this reconsideration move, also your support of the bill. We are talking about a railroad, a means of transportation, a means of providing goods and services to our community and from our community all along this 317 mile stretch of territory from Norfolk to Chadron. It is a part of our state that is very...fairly remote. It is a part of our state that needs all of these transportation amenities that we can keep. Economic development, of course, is of prime concern to us and we see somewhat of a decline in rural population, and we need to do everything we can to keep this community viable, and again I am talking about the entire northern part of Nebraska community. The railroad will do that. The railroad, we know from the people who have offered support to use this railroad, to provide the cars we need to make it viable, we know that it will work. We just need a little bit of time and a little bit of effort from the part of this legislative body to make this work. This can't be bad for anybody. It has got to be good for the entire state. If we survive economically in the rural part of the state, so do we in the urban part of the state, and I urge your support of this legislation. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Madam President, I call the question.