

would do. It requires that once each calendar month these safety committees would have to meet. I mean, it's a simple amendment. To me, anyway, it doesn't seem that unreasonable, but that's what it does. I assume there will be opposition to it because I don't think we're real serious about safety committees or at least some of those out in the lobby are real serious about safety committees. When we've tried to put any enforcement teeth into the safety committee idea, it met with pretty strong opposition. There were four votes in favor of allowing safety committees to have some teeth to them. Been no other proposals coming back that I've seen that would require that anybody listen to the safety committees and even this amendment would simply say these committees have to meet. The employer still doesn't have to listen to them. The employer still doesn't even have to read anything that the safety committee gives to them. It does not, by any stretch of the imagination, require to implement any recommendations the safety committee comes up with. There is simply no enforcement on it, but at least if we're going to have them, let's make sure that the facade is complete and that we're actually having these safety committees that aren't going to do anything. If we're going to make the worker, lull the worker into some sense of security, let's make sure that that lulling is complete and not...let's make sure that the facade itself is complete. Let's make these committees meet so that the worker does generate that feeling that he or she is, in fact, being protected. With that, the amendment is simple, simply requires that the committees meet. I'd urge its adoption.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Lindsay. Senator Abboud, followed by Senators Landis, Will and Pirsch. Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABBOUD: Madam President and colleagues, I've said when we began the debate on the safety committees that this was an excellent idea, the idea of bringing together business and labor to work towards a safe environment for all employees of the company. And with that in mind, I think it's important that if we have the committees established which the bill requires that that be done, we should also put in some sort of requirements as to how often they should meet. Now it doesn't do much good for us, and I assume it was just simply an oversight that we didn't put specific parameters in as to how often these different safety committees should meet because a company, if there are companies out there, I certainly hope that there are none in the state, but if there are companies out there that seek only to