

comply with the letter of the law and to simply establish the safety committees and have no intention of looking for a safe environment for their workers, then I feel that this will help to encourage them to at least take the steps of having the employees coming forward, talking with the management side of the company and having them explain why a particular part of the company is not safe. Now the last time we discussed this which I believe was about two days ago, we talked about the type of a company, the type of employees that we have that are affected by this particular bill and, as we probably have surmised up to now, this bill is a balancing, it's a balancing as the... Senator Landis has talked about. We have a delicate balance between a number of different groups that have come together, that have come forward in an attempt to reduce workers' comp premiums, to increase benefits for our employees and to make a safer working environment for all of the employees throughout the state. But the people that are benefiting by this bill are relatively clear as well, the worker that is making over approximately \$10 an hour, the company that is playing the ever increasing workers' comp rates which we'll see there under projections made for the business community and by our insurance department will see premiums actually drop as a result of the passage of this bill. Those are the beneficiaries of this particular bill, but, on the other hand, we have the people that will not be benefitted from this bill in regards to increased benefits. They will be the people making less than the amount, the 9.95 an hour, but they will clearly be benefitted by these safety committees. This is the one saving grace for a number of these people so I feel that it is very important that we make this a part of the bill, but, on the other hand, we also provide at least that these committees get together and they discuss these issues. And I believe that if you get employers talking to employees about safe work environments that they will look out for the best interest of the employee. At least I hope they do. It's a puzzlement to me that we even have to provide state requirements that these be established. You would think that this would be something that employers would be discussing with their employees as a way to reduce their worker comp premiums. Now, throughout the state, we have a number of different workers. We have high paid workers, we have low paid workers, and the basis of that payment is usually the skill as well as the supply and the demand of those particular employees. A janitor, for example, may not be as valuable as a highly trained technician that is working for a nuclear power plant. They may both be making an hourly wage, but that wage is based upon the skill and