

interest in making their company more productive, making their company safer since they're working in those environments and the company doesn't have to go out and get some paid consultant to come in and make an evaluation to try to make it a safer working environment. So I would encourage that most, I would assume that most employees that would like safety committees, that have used safety committees already have them in place in this state. Now what happens to those number of employees that...employers that maybe didn't think about it, we'll assume that is some of the percentage or they felt that it would be too much work, too much time, that it would not be productive, those types of people will probably go along with this particular approach and they'll probably use these safety committees and they'll find that after using them, that if they're successful, they'll be encouraged by it and they'll have meetings on a regular basis and they'll discuss these issues. And if it saves the company money through reduction in worker comp premiums or it saves the company money just because of loss of productivity of an injured worker being off the job that has been trained by that company, they will work hard to keep these committees in effect and continue to use them. But we're going to have a minority of employers out there that may not want a safety committee because they don't have, I assume, a concern for the injuries that occur for their workers, and I assume that that's a minority, a small, small minority. But, as we know with insurance premiums, insurance premiums aren't based, they're based to some degree upon the particular company but they are also based on a shared risk. And if we have some companies that are more expensive than other companies, it ends up costing the state more money, and when we come back and we evaluate the workers' comp bill, which we're going to do under this bill in a few years, that company with the high, high premiums will be merged in with the other companies that have the lower premiums because they follow the safety committees and have used them extensively and we will have an average for our worker comp premiums and that will be the basis to determine whether or not this bill has been a success. Really, that's going to be the bottom line of this piece of legislation. Has there been a reduction in premiums as a result of this bill passing? We probably won't look to the amount of cases that are successfully litigated on behalf of the employer or the employee because it's much too difficult to determine that and it is on a case by case basis.

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.