

the opening, perhaps we can at least get what a one-call system is and then that will give you some frame of reference as to what the amendments are and what your policy choices will be this morning. The most widely accepted danger, of course, with the transportation of gas, liquid petroleum and even to some point electricity is when those are accidentally struck causing major damages. The hazards of underground gas and hazardous liquid pipelines has been a subject of national discussion. The federal government has approached that. In fact, we've had for many years a hazardous pipeline safety act, I think, starting in the sixties and seventies, Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Act, and so I'm trying to reduce the risks of the transportation of hazardous materials such as gas. The federal government has passed a law that requires the gas pipeline companies and the liquid gas pipelines to conform to a system called one-call and this one-call system, some of you may be familiar with it because it's in operation in some parts of Nebraska, but, basically, what it is is if you are going to be an excavator or someone who digs, that can be someone who is building a home, putting in underground sprinklers, it can be that somebody, anybody that is going to dig that's an excavator, runs the risk, obviously, of hitting these things either quite by accident or out of just neglect, not remembering that there may be things in the ground and the risk of danger is great. If you hit a pipeline, for example, in Missouri, very tragic cases, when you have a backhoe or someone hit one of these pipelines that can be under tremendous pressure and a spark occurs, it's just an instant holocaust. I mean, you just cover everything, the operators that are there are killed, you evacuate. In fact, in Lincoln two weeks ago you probably saw in the news where there was part of the City of Lincoln evacuated, a neighborhood, because of the danger of hitting, in fact, interrupting some of these utility services. So the one-call system has been required that we need to have a system up running at least for the gas pipe lines and the natural gas industry where the one-call comes into play. Why do we call it one-call? The people who have, the operators of the utilities will be required to give notice of where their materials are located and have a clearing house of sorts where if you're an excavator and you're going to dig, you can make one phone call and, thus, find out who all in that area that you're going to dig may be affected by your services or by your digging, and thus you call it one-call. You make one call as a digger or an excavator, thus you're informed about who may be there. What this law does and what 421 attempts to do is to set out a procedure for this one-call