

facilities or pipes. The need for a one-call system, I believe strongly in. The committee was under the understanding... I'm going to punch my light on and maybe discuss a little more about what occurred in committee, but at this point in time, Madam President, that is the Standing Committee amendments along with a brief explanation of the bill and if I was members of the body, I would then look for Senator Withem's amendment and that probably is going to clarify what the real issues are here this morning, not whether we need a one-call system, but what type of system we really have. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Mr. Clerk, amendment to the committee amendments.

CLERK: Madam President, Senator Withem would move to amend the committee amendments with AM1752.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, members of the body, Madam Chair, thought I'd reverse that for once. Everybody else always goes the other direction. AM1752 is the latest version. I've had a number of amendments printed that each successive one is, hopefully, a refinement of the one passed, but they all deal with the same general principle and the same general principle is that if we're going to have a state one-call center that anyone who is an operator under the statute, anybody that has facilities buried underground should, in fact, belong to the one-call center. It's not a one-call center if you have some members who belong and some who do not. Why do we need a procedure for location of these facilities that are buried underground? First of all, there's probably a time in our history, 40, 50 years ago where if you were going to run a telephone line, an electrical line, even a pipeline, probably in some cases, you ran that above ground. The practice within the industry now is to bury that underground. It is less obtrusive to the general public when it is buried underground, maintenance costs are less. It is not exposed to the elements, so a lot of things are underground, and there are some individuals evidently within the industry who think once they bury something underground then they lose any responsibility of informing the general public where that particular facility is. There are lots of reasons why we should have a system to locate what is buried underground. First of all, and maybe the most important thing is the safety of the excavator. If an individual who is an