

excavator has a job of installing a utility service to a new building, as an example, and is out there digging with a backhoe and runs into a gas pipeline or to a high voltage electrical connection, it's a dangerous situation. So for safety for the excavator we need to be able to locate where those facilities are. Safety of the general public, when you hit a gas line, high pressure gas line and an explosion occurs, the general public's safety is at risk. Thirdly, we have lots of services to the consumers that take place. Lots of businesses operate via telecommunications, direct catalog sales via the telephone lines. If those lines are cut by some excavator out digging making some new connection someplace in a business that survives on catalog sales, has one day of down time, that is thousands of dollars worth of business that that consumer uses. The general safety of the public, if they need to make a call to 911 and the line is cut, their safety is compromised. Economic well-being of the companies. They invest a lot of money in those underground facilities. If they are damaged, the company loses. And finally, and something that seems to be lost in a lot of the discussion, once those lines are buried, it's not a matter of then that company that buried them has proprietary forever interest in that land, we are continually developing land. We are continually doing new building, we are continually putting in new services, we're upgrading our electrical services in my neighborhood this morning, for instance. We're putting in fiberoptic cable taking the place of the old copper cable. There's an economic interest to our whole community to be able to facilitate this new development. What the bill does is it says right now it's a two-tiered system. It is my opinion that it is already mandatory in one very strong manner and that is anybody digging in the ground, any excavator putting in new services is mandated to call the one-call center, but not everybody who buries stuff currently has to belong. So the excavator, the way the bill right now reads, the excavator has to call the one-call center, find out what might be buried in the area where that excavator is going to be digging. The one-call center calls the members, the members then send out people to locate and that's how it is handled with those that belong to the one-call center. To find out though who does not belong, the excavator has to make a second call. That second call goes to the Register of Deeds Office. Now you probably heard, and I know Senator Dierks has an amendment dealing with the Register of Deeds Office, you probably heard from some Register of Deeds, why should they have to do this, and it's a good question. They shouldn't. The problem with the Dierks