

understand why you want the one-call system to work everywhere because from the safety point of view of the general public and for the excavators themselves, there are people who are down in that hole digging sometimes, you want to be really sure that you're not going to hit a gas line or something. But...that's all I want to say, but I would like one of you, Senator Kristensen or Senator Withem, maybe you could explain, does that help that situation and why, if somebody is already doing this and has been a member and has been using the one-call and it is working, why do we have to mandate so that they include? That's all I want to know. You can have my time.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yeah, I would be happy to, Senator Crosby. From what I understand,...

SENATOR CROSBY: Does this help? I meant, does this help that particular situation, your amendment?

SENATOR WITHEM: I think it does because there are large parts of the state where they do not have a one-call center now. They do have one in Lincoln, they do have one in Omaha. It's a voluntary sort of thing within the industry. It works relatively well. There are some people still who don't belong, and there are lots of parts of the state where there is no one-call center and maybe Senator Kristensen would either agree or disagree with what I had to say.

SENATOR CROSBY: But why would your amendment help that Lincoln Electric? Would it help Lincoln Electric's feeling that they shouldn't have to be mandated?

SENATOR WITHEM: I am well aware Lincoln Electric does not like the concept of mandatory. I really haven't understood why other than I think it's a general...a lot of people don't like government telling them what to do sort of attitude and this bill, yes, would make Lincoln Electric have to belong to the state one-call system.

SENATOR CROSBY: Okay, so, Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Well, Senator Crosby, and I have my light on because my role in the mandatory optional takes a little different turn than Senator Withem's but my impression is that Lincoln Electric System is under a voluntary system, that if they don't like it, they can also deal within that system to