

SENATOR VRTISKA: ...and I may punch my light again because I've got a couple questions. But the issue that comes down is, on some of these cases I think we need to talk about shared liability because it would make both individuals more aware that there was a problem and that they would try to work together to not damage the property. The issue we have here is if you ruin a water line and they...

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR VRTISKA: ...have to flush all their lines out, it could be very, very expensive and some of these water districts are barely able to make their way now and pay their debt off, so I'll have another question after a bit. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Madam President, members. Oftentimes, as a committee Chair, you get placed in positions that, one is you try to balance the interest of those who bring the legislation versus the interest of the committee versus the interests of the full Legislature and this is such a bill for me. Let me just give you a little brief history on how the bill came to the committee and how the Withem amendment fits into that. There were a number of groups, primarily the natural gas and electric pipeline companies, who came to the committee and said, by federal law we need a one-call system. We've had a meeting of many, many people who have been involved in this system. There are a lot of people who are affected by this and we've had meetings and it looks like that the balance here, the delicate balance is that it should be an optional system, mandatory upon the natural gas people, but optional for anyone else. And I think, and members of the committee who feel free to speak or would like to, certainly may add to this what their impression is, but the general impression that I think the committee had was we will hear this bill, we advanced it out of the committee with the understanding that it was an optional service bill. However, there were concerns, I think there were members of the committee who liked the idea of mandatory. I think that there were probably members of the committee who fully expected this to be an optional bill, and they are certainly free to vote any which way they want to. Once the bill was out of committee, a number of questions, similar to