

SENATOR VRTISKA: Yes, go ahead, I'm going to shut up here anyway.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: The purpose here...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Senator Vrtiska, the purpose of this is that you've got to put responsibility, if you're going to go out and be an excavator that you want to avoid those dangerous situations. Now the better argument that you have is that our water lines aren't that dangerous, okay, and that somebody won't be...the damage of hitting a two-inch water line is much different than hitting a ten-inch gas line, under hundreds of pounds of pressure.

SENATOR VRTISKA: I want to interrupt you on my time. I agree with you, and this bill was started simply for high pressure gas lines anyway, so we ought to go back to that and not worry about the other people that are involved.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: If you want me to take the rest of your time, I will, if not, that's a policy choice that we're having. And so when you ask the purpose of the bill, you know the purpose of the bill. It's a matter of a policy choice of how far does the bill really go, and how far to you really want to go. And that's really what the next Withem amendment division is all about. That goes to the guts of this amendment. And if you want to exempt out the water people,...

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: ...I think that that's something you ought to do. I'd still pass this portion of the Withem amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senators. Before we proceed, I would like to call the senators' attention to the area under the north balcony. Special guests today of Senator Cudaback are Mayor Cathy Walters of Cozad, and her assistant, Carl York. Please stand and be recognized. Welcome to the Chamber. Thank you. And seated in the north balcony are special guests of Senator Elmer, they are seventh and eighth grade students from Funk Public Schools, and their teacher. Would you please rise and be recognized. Welcome to the Chamber. Thank you. Senator