

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members. I rise in support of Senator Lynch's amendment. Looking at the proponents and opponents of the bill, I notice AT&T testified in favor of the bill. I don't know if that was with a suggested amendment of this exemption but I really feel that the exemption is not necessary. If there is a problem there, if there are workers that will be exposed, they definitely should have the training, and I feel that it is something that is needed. We are lessening the restrictions on asbestos and I don't think we need to start exempting certain employees and employers other than what was contained in the original bill. I haven't been...no one has come to me and made a good case why this exemption would be needed and I would support Senator Lynch's amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, members, I, too, would rise in support of the Lynch amendment. Just to give you a little background, the reason the committee did amend this was because there was some confusion at the hearing. It was requested that the phone companies be exempted out because there was some confusion when the bill passed a few years ago whether phone companies were in or not. It was based on the idea that the work that they do is so small on asbestos projects of three or more square feet and so confusion really was the situation for most of last year. But as the discussion has gone on in the last month, it is still clear that three feet or less, as defined by the original bill, is exempt, but above three feet and below these limits, it would be appropriate in that type of a project to have the training and what have you for phone companies as with all other employees, and so I think phone companies have come to not oppose this amendment and to realize the necessity to be along with other businesses, and so I think that we have kind of worked that situation out, and I am pleased that we were able to do that. So I would support the Lynch amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Any other discussion? Senator Lynch, would you like to make a closing statement? Thank you. The question is the adoption of the Lynch amendment to LB 923. All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, please.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of Senator Lynch's amendment.