

circumstance where those kinds of people are not protected as well. Someone once said, too, also that if it weren't for the unions, the cost of a house would be cheaper, and somebody can correct me if I'm wrong, but I'd be willing to bet that maybe 5 percent of the houses or 10 percent maximum, maybe even less than 5, are built with any kind of union help. They are generally done by homebuilders, but, to be completely frank, I am cautious and concerned about this. I don't like putting funding into anything until we know exactly what we're talking about. You get conditioned to that, I guess, if you're on the Appropriations Committee. It's one thing to tell us what they wish could happen, and they are not quite sure what it would cost, but we ought to support it anyhow. I think there are some things that should come first, and that is a definition of what we're talking about as it applies to codes, codes as it applies to those communities we've already gotten letters from this morning indicating their concern about how their codes would be affected. I also think we ought to be concerned with local determination and I think sometimes when we try to impose, in some cases...in this case conditions on municipalities or counties, as the case might be where planning and zoning exists where homes can be built, that we define for them what they are before we suggest they do it. To provide money for anything like this without making sure that we know exactly what they think should not have to exist in any codes in any city in this community to make a house affordable is important for us to know. Now I'd like to suggest that we should not proceed, period, on anything like this until that information is available to us. It is not unreasonable. If there are those people out there that suggest we can do this, they must have some kind of information to justify that position and be able to tell us exactly what it is. I hate to suggest that they don't want to tell us because everybody knows it probably won't save any money anyhow. What kind of guarantee do we have if somebody says if we take all these things, or some of these things, or any of these things out of the codes because it could make it easier to build a house cheaper than, in fact, it will, in fact, be less expensive for the person that buys it? Will the builder guarantee that, in fact, those kinds of savings will exist? I don't think so. I don't think we can expect them to do that either. So this is a nice idea. I think affordable housing should exist. Maybe somebody is going to have to...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.