

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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hearing.

SENATOR PREISTER: Since that would be the same one, I would withdraw that, yes, Madam President.

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill, Madam President.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you. Any further discussion on the bill? Senator Preister, did you wish to speak on the bill?

SENATOR PREISTER: I would, thank you, Honorable President, and, basically, I want to thank the body for its indulgence in this discussion. It has been somewhat restricted to funding and to the Appropriations Committee concerns, and I think that's an important component of this. I think it's also important that this is another educational opportunity. From most of our perspectives, it's not a subject that's that familiar to folks in this body or out in the communities. It's one that we need to continually work at educating and informing. Some of the discussion has settled on...centered on response. The legislation that I have been working on really only secondarily deals with response. We're talking about planning and preparation to minimize the need for response and for the responders to do their job. We're talking about identifying where hazardous materials are transported, where they are located within a community. We're talking about good evacuation plans. We're talking about good response plans. We're talking about preparation and the element of educating people within the community is essential to doing this. And, yet, it's very difficult to get people to even think about the issue or to become involved in order to do that education and understanding and awareness components. I would mention that in Senator Vrtiska's questioning, he talked about efficiencies, and with the 53 LEPCs that are currently authorized by the SERC, a number of those are joint efforts already. We are working at those efficiencies by having those counties already working together and having more than one county in those active LEPCs. That has been a part of the direction and the effort by the SERC. The State Emergency Response Commission has done an exceptional job. Harlan Schafer, who is currently chairing that, and is from Aurora and the Aurora Co-op is wonderful. I want to thank him for his assistance on the interim study, for his direction and