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March 31, 2003 LB 626

SENATOR PREISTER: We'll do our best to accommodate. Thank you very much.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Preister, there are no other senators wishing to speak at this time. You're recognized to close if you care to on advancement of LB 626.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Mr. President. And I will be just reiterating what I just said, my commitment to work on the issue. I appreciate the attentiveness. When I look around, virtually every senator is here. Virtually every senator is attentive. And on an issue like this, it's big, and it needs that kind of attention. But I also know the demands on everybody's time, and other issues that you have to prepare for. So I appreciate the attentiveness. I appreciate the issues that have been discussed on the floor by Senator Stuhr and her interest in the bill, as well as to other committee chairs. If there are other areas that you identify, please bring them to me today, because we're going to have to move quickly on these discussions. So let me know. I am open. I have been working in good faith. I think the administration has been working in good faith. And I do thank Lauren Hill and Lori McClurg for doing that. I recognize that many of the agencies had concerns, and they were identifying those. Again, on any issue at any time, I'm open to hear directly from people about those concerns. And I will continue to do that. We...with the body's favorable vote on this bill, advance it to Select File, we'll save floor time, work on the amendment, come back with an amendment that we can agree on. There may be other amendments that we don't reach agreement on. They will be separate. You will be well informed of how that progresses. With that, I would ask your yes vote on LB 626 and on keeping the bill alive and moving forward, showing that, yes, it is a big-dollar issue, yes, we are accountable to the public, and yes, we want to have information available so we can at least have the opportunity to know what's out there, how much is being let, and that we can have some oversight also as a legislative body in statute. With that, I think everyone that's been involved.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Preister. The issue before the body is LB 626. The question before the body is