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passed around a copy of an inspection...I mean, a poll we did, and gave results. And you see that even the businesses that were inspected believed that they had good quality information, and they were just mainly counting lower on the cost of the program to those companies. I'd ask that you support adding this insurance tax so that we'd be able to continue this, I think, needed program.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Connealy. You've heard the opening on AM1093, offered by Senator Connealy to the AM0926 to LB 210. Open for discussion on that Connealy amendment. Anybody wishing to speak? Senator Preister, on the Connealy amendment.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Connealy, could I ask you a question or two, please?

SENATOR CONNEALY: Yes.

SENATOR PREISTER: Senator Connealy, this was kind of a surprise to me. Actually, it was a shock, that these safety inspectors, that this work program was going to be eliminated. Were you caught off guard? Was this a surprise to you?

SENATOR CONNEALY: I was. Over the last two years, the Business and Labor Committee, which you serve on, have been working with the Department of Labor to try to make sure that what we saw as a problem in funding of this program was corrected. We were told in interim studies, in the regulation and the rules and regulations hearings, and in other venues, that the fees were going to support this program. And then we heard, after bill introduction, and at a late hour, that the Department of Labor was out of money, that they were unable to sustain this, and that the inspections were going to cease and that the inspectors were going to be terminated, or moved to some other area of the Department of Labor. I was shocked. And I think that...I don't know whether it's a question of mismanagement, but I think that we need to keep this needed program.

SENATOR PREISTER: And Senator Connealy, I believe you mentioned in your opening there were a number of safety inspections, 560?