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SENATOR FOLEY: Senator Beutler, I appreciate your work in this area because it's been one of my frustrations in the five years that I've been here that, to the extent that you start to get interested into the details of a particular government program, inevitably you run up against some confidentiality issues, as well as some other staff issues and resource issues, to try to thoroughly research a particular question. One of the questions that I've been trying to dig into recently is the Universal Service Fund program and I know that you've had some interest in that area as well. And when I call over to the Public Service Commission and talk to people like Andy Pollock or Jeff Pursley, they genuinely try to be responsive. They return my phone calls. They return my...they respond to my e-mails and so forth and they try to be responsive, but we keep bumping up against this confidentiality question in areas like trying to learn what kind of rate of return companies are earning or how much money they're collecting in USF monies and so forth. Can you walk with me through your process in how I can get more information about this program under what you're trying to do with this bill?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. Senator, of course this bill is limited to the Performance Audit Committee and its function, but generally speaking, the starting point for all audits are requests for audits that come from other members of the Legislature. So you, for example, if you were interested in certain types of functions of the Public Service Commission and you felt that you were not going to get to where you wanted to go by yourself, under your lone authority as a senator, because you were blocked by confidential information, you could put in a request to the Performance Audit Committee. We look at them as they relate to all other requests that we currently have before us, and we look at the resources of the staff to see how much...how many of them they can accomplish, and then we try to figure out what's in the best interests of the public in order...in terms of which one we do, and we will pick out one or two and do what we call a preaudit, which is basically a preliminary investigation to determine whether what we thought was a good idea in fact is a good idea, before we invest a large amount of resources. So you would, for example, if you were interested in having the Performance Audit Committee look at the