

Department of Building and Safety is against affordable housing. This outlines the reasons why I have concern and I would ask the members to take a look at it. Thank you, Madam President.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Maurstad. Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Yeah, Madam President and members, I'm not going to speak very long on this, but I did want to comment on the document I got regarding the cost of housing in Cincinnati and Santa Fe and Pittsburgh. You know, earlier on when we talked about this I simply asked for a list of what home builders or others would suggest we would not have to put in, had nothing to do with regulations at that time, to make a house affordable. I'm assuming if regulations are what cause, based on this document, houses not being affordable, is this bill suggesting, and I got to know this, is this bill suggesting we do away with the regulations? You know, for example, down in Santa Fe, and I called a friend down in Santa Fe, they live in Las Cruces and they also got places in Santa Fe and read these numbers and he about fell off the chair. This suggests, for example, how much a water tap is and I know what that is, building permits, I'm not quite sure if that's right or not. Then they talk about \$6,700 for a sidewalk going in front of their house. You walk around Lincoln and other places and they don't have sidewalks. Are we suggesting, for example, that a house would be affordable if we made the kids walk out in the street? It's a simple thing but we ought to know the difference. Impact fees, I don't know what they mean by that. Estimated land value exactions, I don't know what "exactions" mean. It maybe means something down in Santa Fe, but I don't know what it means here. Legal and engineering costs, that's always been there. Soil sedimentation, storm water runoff controls, I guess that means storm sewers. The whole point is, members of the Legislature, that I've got... I think I'm going to support the bill. But what concerns me is that if in fact we're trying to fool people into thinking we're going to have affordable housing if we simply do away with those fire, life, and safety programs that are really important for people, not just rich people, but poor people as well, then I think you're doing a disservice. I can't understand why on the one hand we would propose that, you know, codes and ordinances are important in cities and villages and other places so that some minimum standards, minimum standards are developed and so that standards are also existing so that as people sell you something as a consumer, you're protected that