

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
Transcriber's Office

Transportation and Telecommunications Committee
November 17, 2008

[CONFIRMATION]

The Committee on Transportation and Telecommunications met at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, November 17, 2008, in Room 1113 of the State Capitol, Lincoln, Nebraska, for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on gubernatorial appointments. Senators present: Deb Fischer, Chairperson; Arnie Stuthman, Vice Chairperson; Ray Aguilar; LeRoy Louden; Scott Lautenbaugh; Dwite Pedersen; and DiAnna Schimek. Senators absent: Carol Hudkins. []

SENATOR FISCHER: Good morning. I'd like to welcome you all to a confirmation hearing of the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee. My name is Deb Fischer. I'm from Valentine, Nebraska, the 43rd District, and I'm Chair of the committee. At this time I'd like to introduce the other members who are here. On my far right is Senator Arnie Stuthman. He is the Vice Chair of the committee and from Platte Center, Nebraska. Next is Senator Ray Aguilar from Grand Island. On my immediate left is Mrs. Pauline Bulgrin. She is the committee clerk. Next is Senator Scott Lautenbaugh from Omaha, Nebraska. And on the end is Senator LeRoy Louden and he is from Ellsworth, Nebraska. Our page today is Ryan McIntosh and he is from Syracuse. In our committee, I ask that you turn off all cell phones. I also don't allow any text messaging and so I would ask that you honor that request. We have confirmation hearings this morning on four individuals. If you would have your sign-in sheet ready and when I open the hearing and ask you to come forward, if you would hand that to Mrs. Bulgrin, our committee clerk, I would appreciate it. With that, I will open the hearing on our gubernatorial appointment to the Nebraska Highway Commission and Mr. Rodney Vandenberg is here, so welcome. [CONFIRMATION]

RODNEY VANDEBERG: (Exhibits 1 and 2) Thank you very much, Senator Fischer and senators. Thank you for entertaining me at this session this morning. My name is Rodney Vandenberg. I live in Falls City, Nebraska. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR FISCHER: If you would spell your last name. I'm sorry I forgot to say that. [CONFIRMATION]

RODNEY VANDEBERG: Sorry. Rodney, R-o-d-n-e-y, Vandenberg, V-a-n-d-e-b-e-r-g. And I actually am a career banker, retired from banking at the end of February of this year, four months short of 52 years in banking. During that time I worked in three different banks and the last 35 years of my career I was one of the owners of First National Bank in Falls City, which I operated, which I managed for those years, and then we sold our bank at the end of February of this year. I have been very active in Falls City in various civic organizations and, interestingly, I will complete my second year as mayor of Falls City the start of this December. And I have two more years as mayor and I'm proud to tell you that during my term as mayor many, many nice things have happened in Falls City, but one of the nicest things that has happened in Falls City

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is that we've had a complete change in attitude and that includes many, many people stepping forward and volunteering for many nice projects in the community. And I'm pleased to tell you that almost as I speak we have a new industry in Falls City which all of us have been involved in landing and that company is a plastics manufacturing company out of Webster City, Iowa, who chose to open a second plant in Falls City. One of their largest customers is Kawasaki over in Maryville, Missouri, and as we speak today they are manufacturing their first plastic parts, having completely redone the plant and spent several million dollars. Many perks have come from Falls City, many perks have come from our Nebraska Department of Economic Development, and that's just one of our successes. And as I talk we have another industry out of Indiana that is also interested in coming to our town. It's just a matter, I think, of having the right chemistry, the right volunteers, and being persistent. I was appointed to this job by Governor Heineman in May and I have attended monthly meetings since that time. I had the pleasure of meeting Senator Fischer and hearing her speak in Grand...in North Platte in June. That happened to be my first meeting and I am enjoying...I am enjoying this job very, very much. I've got a lot to learn and the learning curve is very steep. (Recorder malfunction--some testimony lost)...maintaining roads. Inflation is very, very high and I know that you've heard that message from Director John Craig also--do I say that right, is it John Craig--and it's a major...it's a major, major problem. I have had the opportunity since I've been on the commission to participate ever so little in a new funding distribution program which has been...many, many hours have been spent on this program by some of the key people, headed by Kurt Vosburg, who is the district engineer out of McCook, whatever that number is. And I have a little...I have a little final fact sheet, Senator, that I wanted to leave you today for each one of you which kind of highlights what's going on, but the commission, the NDOR, believe me they realize that they're going to have to figure out ways to operate on less funds in the future and they're trying their very best, trying their very best to accomplish that. This program will, when it's passed, and this program is being discussed at each one of our eight district planning meetings around the state and then final input will come back before the commission finally takes action to hopefully recommend approval. But the areas that...in order are, of course, high priority bridges, and that means bridges that aren't safe; preservation/maintenance of our \$7.5 billion road system in this state; the I-80 six lanes; and then if there's any money left for capital improvements. And, senators, I could...honestly, I could go on and on and on, and that isn't what you've got me here for today, so let me stop by just telling you that I'm just honored that the Governor selected me for this position. I'm enjoying it immensely and I hope you approve me. Any questions, Senator? [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR FISCHER: Thank you, Mr. Vandenberg. Those of us on this committee love our roads, too, and we can go on and on and on. I would like to mention at this time we've been joined by Senator Dwite Pedersen representing Elkhorn, Nebraska.
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RODNEY VANDEBERG: Good morning, Senator. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR FISCHER: Are there questions for Mr. Vandenberg? Senator Lautenbaugh. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR LAUTENBAUGH: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you, sir, for your willingness to do this. Congratulations on all your successes in Falls City. [CONFIRMATION]

RODNEY VANDEBERG: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR LAUTENBAUGH: Will that leave you time for this other challenge as well? [CONFIRMATION]

RODNEY VANDEBERG: Yeah, Senator, it very much will because one thing I did when I took over as mayor of Falls City is I built a management team, which had not been done before. The town had been run by a city administrator, a hired gun, for 32 years, and he had done...tried to do the whole thing himself. Now I have every one of my department heads is a manager. I delegate and when I delegate I give them authority, and when they have something that they need to talk to the CEO about they know where to find me. Every Tuesday at 1:30 we have a management committee meeting with those managers and we have an agenda and we take minutes and we talk about our challenges and our ideas, and it's just working wonderfully. The first six months I was mayor, probably would not have been able to do this job, Senator, because I was probably spending four or five hours, five days a week doing the job. I don't have to do that anymore because I've built a management team of professionals that are doing it and I have time. I also would tell you, Senator, that while I live in Falls City, I own...I have family in Lincoln. I have a young grandson that's an athlete at Lincoln Southeast. I purchased a townhome in Lincoln just about a year ago and I spend...I'm able to spend considerable time in Lincoln. Yes, yes, a good question, I have time to do this job. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR LAUTENBAUGH: I assumed as much. I just wanted you to have the opportunity to say that. [CONFIRMATION]

RODNEY VANDEBERG: Well, thank you for asking. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR LAUTENBAUGH: So thank you, sir. Thank you for your willingness to serve. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR FISCHER: Other questions? Senator Louden. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR LOUDEN: Yes. Well, thank you, Senator Fischer. Thank you for being here

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today, Mr. Vandenberg. As I noticed on your little list here, you have the, you know, your...I guess what the Department of Roads has kind of outlined on their priorities and I guess there was some of those that aren't mentioned on here and one of them was this 10,000 vehicle a day on roads before any upgrading would be done to four lanes. We had a meeting, a planning meeting, out there in Scottsbluff or in Gering the other night last, whatever it was, Thursday night I think, and that was brought up. Because by doing that, that just done away with any improving of any roads for any economic development or anything in most of the rural areas of Nebraska. It just literally left all of Nebraska out completely for any improvement on expressway system. What we're trying to do in western Nebraska is work on this transportation corridor that goes north to south across the United States and it will go through western Nebraska if we work for it and we help it. Where do you come down on that? Should we be trying to do something on that? And this will entail some four-lane expressway systems in parts of western Nebraska to get that in. Do you think some money should be set aside or whether it's appropriated or whether there should even be some planning done to take care of that corridor across western Nebraska? We know what a corridor across east...from east to west did for Nebraska. We can do the same thing north to south. What's your opinion on that? [CONFIRMATION]

RODNEY VANDEBERG: Well, Senator, let me tell you first that I'm not real familiar, having only been on the commission for a short while, with exactly what you're talking about. But I would be a strong advocate, if we can figure out a way to come up with the dollars, for a corridor that goes in that direction. I know the importance of I-80, which goes across the state of Nebraska and, you know, if this is something that does come before the commission I think you would find that I would be positive. Who is the commissioner from your...? [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR LOUDEN: Doug Leafgreen is the one out there. [CONFIRMATION]

RODNEY VANDEBERG: Yeah. Yeah, Doug, Doug Leafgreen. And I know Doug. I've gotten to know Doug well. He'll be a wonderful advocate as your commissioner for something like this, I can assure you of that, and I certainly know the importance. Being a banker, Senator, I'm always...I'm always mindful of the dollars and we got a problem. You know, we have a \$317 million budget in place now for 2008. We haven't...there's still \$50 million kind of hanging out in limbo that we have not yet received from the federal government and dollars are a problem. But, you know, I'm right on with you, Senator, in that we need to start thinking about it and we need to start talking about it and we need to start planning, because it would be a tremendous...another tremendous asset for this state. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR LOUDEN: Have you been told that South Dakota will have a four-lane expressway to the Nebraska border by, I think, 2010 or '12, whatever it is?
[CONFIRMATION]

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RODNEY VANDEBERG: I have not been told. I am not aware of that, but I am very...
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR LOUDEN: Okay. See, at the present time,... [CONFIRMATION]

RODNEY VANDEBERG: ...happy to know that. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR LOUDEN: ...they are from Rapid City to...by Hot Springs there, what we call Maverick Junction. And there I was talking to the man here last Thursday from South Dakota and they intend to have that. Their plans are all drawn out. Now when we were doing this discussion out there, our problem is that the federal government is calling it a \$100 million job from what we call Minatare to Alliance for this four-lane expressway, and the problem is that the Department of Roads has to have a plan and they do not have a plan and don't intend to, as far as I know, because they don't feel there's enough traffic out there to do that. This is the problem we have with Department of Roads, if we're going to do any economic development in other parts of the state, and I'm wondering where you come down on the plan that the Department of Roads has.
[CONFIRMATION]

RODNEY VANDEBERG: Senator, I can assure you that Commissioner Rod Vandenberg, after this little dialogue with you, will be talking to Commissioner Leafgreen about this project. Let me tell you this. One of the reasons that I applied for this job when my good friend Duane Acklie resigned early this year, and I had conversation with Duane and he encouraged me to do so and I think he actually supported my candidacy, is that...and I told Duane this, for approximately 25 years Duane had been the commissioner, the 1st District commissioner and he lived in Lincoln and I thought it was time to take it to the rural area, Senator, if you will because I just feel like we need some representation outside of the metropolitan area. And so I understand very vividly and very clearly what's going on in western Nebraska. It's the same thing that's going on in southeast Nebraska. We've made a lot of recent noise, started a year ago, we've made a lot of noise about a new bridge over the Missouri River in Rulo, Nebraska. We made a lot of noise. We took a lobbying trip to Washington earlier this year. People from Nebraska and Missouri and even Kansas, who doesn't have a dog in the hunt as far as the finances are concerned, they even went with us because they would benefit too. But we're doing the same thing as you need to do on this corridor out there, and I think, I'm not sure I know where the money is coming from yet (laugh), but I think...
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR LOUDEN: Well, see... [CONFIRMATION]

RODNEY VANDEBERG: ...but I think we're going to get a new bridge over that river one of these days. [CONFIRMATION]

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SENATOR LOUDEN: Yeah. Now and that's because you have the Department of Roads working with you to get federal funding for that bridge over at Rulo, over the Missouri River at Rulo. I understand that and very good and I applaud you for doing that work. Our problem is out in western Nebraska we can't get the Department of Roads to have a plan and work with us to secure this federal money and there is where our sticker... [CONFIRMATION]

RODNEY VANDEBERG: Is there even an earmark in place out there for this? [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR LOUDEN: Right now there's a \$20 million earmark for ten miles of expressway and that's in jeopardy because the Department of Roads doesn't have a plan on how they're going to finish up the project. [CONFIRMATION]

RODNEY VANDEBERG: Uh-huh. What do you want me to do? [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR LOUDEN: I'm wondering...have some discussion probably with the Highway Commission to find out if they will go ahead and put in place some type of a plan so this can be finished. It isn't necessarily that they got to appropriate the money. They have to have a plan in place to termini one end or the other of that segment of road that they're putting in out there in the Sandhills part in western Nebraska, and therein is where we have it. We spoke with them the other night. There is no plan. [CONFIRMATION]

RODNEY VANDEBERG: Uh-huh. Has Doug attempted to do that, do you know? [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR LOUDEN: As far as I know he has. Yes, I would hope he had anyway. He was at the same meetings I've been to. [CONFIRMATION]

RODNEY VANDEBERG: Right. I will, I will visit with Doug. We have a meeting this Friday and I promise Doug and I will get off to the side and I'm going to find out a little bit more about it. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR LOUDEN: Okay. Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

RODNEY VANDEBERG: I will do that. Thank you for bringing it up because this has been educational for me. Thank you very much. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR LOUDEN: Okay. Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR FISCHER: Thank you, Senator Louden. At this time I'd like to note for the record that we've been joined by Senator DiAnna Schimek from Lincoln.

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[CONFIRMATION]

RODNEY VANDEBERG: Good morning, Senator Schimek. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Good morning. [CONFIRMATION]

RODNEY VANDEBERG: Nice to see you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR FISCHER: Any other questions? Senator Schimek. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, please. I just sent a page to my office to get the Blue Book, because I'm curious as to whether Lincoln has any representative on the commission at all now or not. [CONFIRMATION]

RODNEY VANDEBERG: Well, there's only...Lincoln is in District 1 and there's only one district commissioner. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR SCHIMEK: That's what I figured. [CONFIRMATION]

RODNEY VANDEBERG: Yeah, and that...and I took Duane's place, Duane Acklie's place. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Right. I know Duane. [CONFIRMATION]

RODNEY VANDEBERG: So, no, you do not. Your commissioner is now from Falls City. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR SCHIMEK: What about Omaha? [CONFIRMATION]

RODNEY VANDEBERG: Omaha has a commissioner. His name is Richard Reiser. He's been a commissioner for several years. He works for Werner Transportation and he is...I believe it's the 2nd District. Is that right, Shirley? He's the 2nd District commissioner and I happen to be the 1st District, which Lincoln is part of. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Okay. Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

RODNEY VANDEBERG: You're welcome. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR FISCHER: Other questions? I see none. Thank you again for coming today. We always appreciate when nominees are able to come before the committee. It gives

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us a chance to see you face to face and have a conversation. [CONFIRMATION]

RODNEY VANDEBERG: Thank you. Thank you. And I would like to thank my senator, Lavon Heidemann, and our Highway Commission exec, Shirley Schafer, for joining me today. Thank you very much. Thank you, Senator Fischer. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR FISCHER: Okay. Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

RODNEY VANDEBERG: Am I dismissed? [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR FISCHER: Yes, you are. [CONFIRMATION]

RODNEY VANDEBERG: Thank you very much. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR FISCHER: (Laugh) Thank you very much. [CONFIRMATION]

RODNEY VANDEBERG: Nice to see you all. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR FISCHER: Is there anyone here who would like to speak on behalf of this nomination? We do take note that Senator Heidemann is in the audience. Is there anyone that would speak in opposition? Anyone in the neutral capacity? Seeing none, I will close the confirmation hearing on the Nebraska Highway Commission and open it on the Nebraska Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board. I understand we have one of our nominees here today and I would like to make a change in our agenda and ask that Charles Borgmann come forward, please. Good morning, Mr. Borgmann, and welcome. I appreciate you coming this morning. If you would like to just tell us a little bit about yourself, this is a reappointment, is my understanding, and maybe tell us a little bit about the licensing board, I'd appreciate that. [CONFIRMATION]

CHARLES BORGMANN: (Exhibit 3) Okay. Thank you. Good morning to the Transportation Committee and Senator Fischer. My name is Chuck Borgmann and it is my second term on the licensing board, which the licensing board just mainly oversees all the activities the dealers do or if there's any complaints and we have to decide what to do if there's a violation or something like that. But anyway, about myself, I've been in business for 22 years in Norfolk as a car dealer and I'm a past member and past president of...well, I'm still a member of Nebraska Independent Auto Dealers Association, which tries to help dealers and keep everyone informed about the laws and such. So I have some experience in the car business and with this other organization, and I was just, for my second appointment, I just was...that's why I'm here today, so thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR FISCHER: Thank you, Mr. Borgmann. Are there any questions? Senator Stuthman. [CONFIRMATION]

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SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you, Senator Fischer. Thank you, Charles, for accepting the job on the licensing board. The one question that I have and you stated that you are...you know, work with dealers and you are a dealer. [CONFIRMATION]

CHARLES BORGMANN: Yes. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Do you feel there's any abuse to the fact of dealer license plates? [CONFIRMATION]

CHARLES BORGMANN: I know there always is some abuse with the dealer license plates and the investigators, if they get a complaint they investigate that and then the board, you know, decides what to do with that. But with...as with me personally, you know, I have a...they make a personal dealer plate that dealers can use that you can purchase and renew yearly, and I use one of those for my personal use and use my dealer plates for my business use, and that's what everybody is supposed to do. You know, and I know there's some other dealer plates where...like students driving on dealer plates is a big thing right now. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Yes. And I think...and that's what I do get a lot of complaints, a lot of calls on, you know. They see that the kids are using them and the wife uses them all the time. The thing that concerns me is I don't think the people really realize, you know, are they paying the right amount of taxes, the quarterly taxes or anything like that? I know we've got people...we've got an individual that has a dealer plate and he hasn't sold a vehicle in the last ten years and he's still driving on his dealer plate. [CONFIRMATION]

CHARLES BORGMANN: Yeah, I think someone like that should turn in their license. But if someone puts in a complaint to the licensing board, they will investigate that... [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR STUTHMAN: They will investigate it. [CONFIRMATION]

CHARLES BORGMANN: ...and decide what to do with that, yes. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Okay. [CONFIRMATION]

CHARLES BORGMANN: Like me, personally, I've got two boys that recently graduated from high school and they're attending Lincoln Southeast and we have separately licensed cars for them with separate insurance on them, you know, that we've paid the taxes on. But I know there's a lot of dealers that don't, but it's just hard to keep up with everybody. But if there is a complaint, it will be investigated. I know that from my experience on the board. [CONFIRMATION]

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SENATOR STUTHMAN: Okay. So, you know, that's what I should tell my constituents, you know, file a complaint... [CONFIRMATION]

CHARLES BORGMANN: Yeah. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR STUTHMAN: ...and go that route. [CONFIRMATION]

CHARLES BORGMANN: Yes. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Okay. Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

CHARLES BORGMANN: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR FISCHER: Thank you, Senator Stuthman. Other questions? I have a question for you. What do you believe is the main duty of the licensing board, in your experience? You've been on three years now? [CONFIRMATION]

CHARLES BORGMANN: Yes. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR FISCHER: What comes before you at meetings? [CONFIRMATION]

CHARLES BORGMANN: Mostly, it's complaints at the meetings mostly for advertising, false advertising and stuff like that. And they get a \$2,000 fine usually for first offense, you know, and then after that the board can take, you know, take their license away from them, because there is some of that that goes on. But I think it's just the main reason for the board is to oversee the dealers and then have someone...I'm a used car dealer and there's like new car dealers, motorcycle dealers, manufactured home dealers. They're all on the board and that gives it a fair spectrum, you know, for everyone to decide, you know, if someone violated the law, what their fine should be. But the board does a good job of...investigators and Mr. Jackson do a great job of knowing what's going on in the state. But if no one files a complaint, you know, they...we don't know about it, so... [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR FISCHER: So the board, you have investigators that... [CONFIRMATION]

CHARLES BORGMANN: Yes. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR FISCHER: ...you can send out, and you also have the ability to levy fines on people that your investigations show that they have committed an error. [CONFIRMATION]

CHARLES BORGMANN: Yes. [CONFIRMATION]

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SENATOR FISCHER: Are you arbitrary when you levy the fines or do you have set rules for that? [CONFIRMATION]

CHARLES BORGMANN: Set rules pretty much, yes. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR FISCHER: Okay. Thank you very much. Other questions?
[CONFIRMATION]

CHARLES BORGMANN: Thank you, Senator. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR FISCHER: I see none. Thank you again for coming in today. As I said to our previous gentleman that was up, we really appreciate that you take the time to drive in from your home and give us a few minutes of your time so we can get to know you a little better. So thank you, Mr. Borgmann. [CONFIRMATION]

CHARLES BORGMANN: Thank you, Senator. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR FISCHER: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

CHARLES BORGMANN: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR FISCHER: Is there anyone here who would like to speak in favor of this nomination? [CONFIRMATION]

WILLIAM JACKSON: Yeah. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR FISCHER: Okay. Good morning. [CONFIRMATION]

WILLIAM JACKSON: Good morning, Senator Fischer and members of the Transportation Committee. My name is William Jackson. I'm the executive director with the dealer and licensing...the Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board. That gets to be so much of a mouthful after 25 years of working for this agency. I wanted to be here and support Charles Borgmann. Something that he failed to mention, he's second generation car dealer. His dad has a car dealership, now his brother, in Creighton, Nebraska, and his dad was on the board when they hired me 25 years ago. So I've always kind of blamed Chuck for getting me, through his dad, on this board. I did...I started out as an investigator. I did the first inspection for Chuck when he went into business many years ago, so I've known Chuck a long time. I'm very fortunate to have dealers of his caliber on the board and I urge the committee to support his application for reappointment. [CONFIRMATION]

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SENATOR FISCHER: (Exhibits 4, 5, 6, and 7) Thank you, Mr. Jackson. Are there any questions? I see none. Thank you very much. Anyone else to speak in favor of this nominee? Anyone in opposition? Anyone in a neutral capacity? With that, thank you, Mr. Borgmann, for being here today. We do have two other appointments to the Nebraska Motor Vehicle Industry Licensing Board. The first is Darlene Noah. There is a handout with a letter from Darlene. She was not able to make it down today. Our second is Sammy Reagan. He also has a letter. It's addressed to Mr. Jackson, but I believe it explains why he wasn't here today. And he had also contacted my office to let me know that he would not be here today. With that, I would ask if there's anyone in the audience who would like to speak in favor of either of these two nominees?
[CONFIRMATION]

WILLIAM JACKSON: If it pleases the Transportation Committee, I'm prepared to speak on behalf of both of the applicants at this time. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR FISCHER: That would be fine. [CONFIRMATION]

WILLIAM JACKSON: Again, my name is William Jackson. I'm the executive director with the dealer Licensing Board. Darlene Noah is finishing her first term. This is a reappointment for Darlene Noah. Again, we have a second generation dealer. She is in Kimball, Nebraska, and has Stahla Mobile Homes. Now most of you, anybody west of Lincoln, knows the name Stahla Manufactured Homes. Stahla has been in business all over throughout the state of Nebraska. And Darlene is a Stahla, Noah is her married name. So she comes from a good line of dealers, a quality dealer. She's past president of the Manufactured Housing Association for the state of Nebraska, very knowledgeable. She does an excellent job of coming in from Kimball for our meetings, which I greatly appreciated. As you all know, trying to get your committee members or your board members to attend these things is very important. And so I urge the committee's positive reaction to the reappointment of Darlene Noah. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR FISCHER: Thank you. Any questions? I see none at this point. Would you like to continue, Mr. Jackson? [CONFIRMATION]

WILLIAM JACKSON: I will continue. Thank you, Senator. Our new board member is a manufactured...works for a man...as a franchised dealer, which means a new car dealer. We have three new car dealers on the Dealer License Board, one from each congressional district. Sammy Reagan is also a second generation car dealer. His dad, Sam Reagan had Reagan Buick in Omaha, passed away just a few years ago. A very nice gentleman. I've known Sammy, he's worked for his Dad, I've known Sammy for 25 years plus. Sammy now owns and operates Infinity of Omaha out in Elkhorn. And it's a brand new, beautiful facility. He's agreed to accept the Governor's recommendation that he serve on this board. He has attended one board meeting already. In his letter...his

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daughter, in Elkhorn High School, is at a tournament in South Carolina, otherwise he would have been here. I just wish that the Transportation Committee would approve his nomination also. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR FISCHER: Thank you, Mr. Jackson. I would like to say for the two nominees that aren't here, my office did not...of course, none of knew that we were going to be having these confirmation hearings with a lot of time in there. And where Darlene was from Kimball, I basically told her she did not have to drive that far for this hearing this time of year. And Mr. Reagan, as you see already, had plans made to be out of state on a college visit with his daughter. So any questions from committee members? Yes, Senator Pedersen. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR PEDERSEN: Thank you, Senator Fischer. Just on a personal note, I know Sammy Reagan. He's very involved in the community. He'll do us a good job. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR FISCHER: Okay, thank you, Senator Pedersen. Are there questions? I see none. Thank you, Mr. Jackson. [CONFIRMATION]

WILLIAM JACKSON: If it pleases the committee, if there's any other questions about what we do or whatever, I would be glad to answer those questions if anybody is curious about it. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR FISCHER: Maybe if you would like to send, you know, like a one-page outline, that's always helpful. [CONFIRMATION]

WILLIAM JACKSON: Give you a better idea of how we operate and... [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR FISCHER: Right. [CONFIRMATION]

WILLIAM JACKSON: Sure. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR FISCHER: We have a lot of committees. My committee clerk has been excellent in providing me with information when I discuss the nominations on the floor. But I think that would be very beneficial. [CONFIRMATION]

WILLIAM JACKSON: Sure. Put together an organizational chart and how we do things and so forth. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR FISCHER: Okay. [CONFIRMATION]

WILLIAM JACKSON: I know there's so many committees, it's hard for the Legislature to

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understand exactly the workings of all of us, because we're all different.
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR FISCHER: Well, and that's, I think, an important process that we go through with confirmation hearings. It...we get to hear about the different boards and the different commissions that we have a number of volunteer people on gubernatorial nominations. And it's helpful for us to learn about them that way. So thank you very much. [CONFIRMATION]

WILLIAM JACKSON: And I appreciate the committee's time. Thank you.
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR FISCHER: Thank you. Is there anyone else who would like to speak in favor of either of these nominations? Anyone in opposition? Anyone in the neutral capacity? I see none. With that, I will close our confirmation hearings for today. And I thank you all for being here. Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

Chairperson

Committee Clerk