

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

Transportation and Telecommunications Committee
April 06, 2010

[CONFIRMATION]

The Committee on Transportation and Telecommunications met at 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, April 6, 2010, in Room 1113 of the State Capitol, Lincoln, Nebraska, for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on Confirmation of Patrick Meuret and Michael Shannon. Senators present: Deb Fischer, Chairperson; Arnie Stuthman, Vice Chairperson; Kathy Campbell; Tim Gay; Galen Hadley; Charlie Janssen; Scott Lautenbaugh; and LeRoy Louden. Senators absent: None. []

SENATOR FISCHER: (Exhibit 1 - Michael Shannon; Exhibit 2 - Patrick Meuret)
Welcome to the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee. My name is Deb Fischer, I am the Chair of the committee and I represent the 43rd District here in the Nebraska Unicameral. At this time I would like to introduce the committee members to you. On my far right is Senator Janssen who is from Fremont. It's been a while. Next to Senator Janssen is Senator Kathy Campbell who is from Lincoln. Next we have Senator Tim Gay who is from Papillion. Next we have the Vice Chair of the committee, Senator Arnie Stuthman who is from Platte Center. On my immediate right is our committee counsel, Mr. Dusty Vaughan. On my immediate left is our committee clerk, Laurie Vollertsen. Next we have Senator Scott Lautenbaugh who is from Omaha; Senator Galen Hadley, who is from Kearney and the rock star on the end is Senator LeRoy Louden who is from Ellsworth. With that, we just have a short hearing today. We're meeting for confirmation hearings for two individuals: Michael Shannon with the Nebraska Railway Commission and Patrick Meuret, who is also with the Nebraska Railway Commission. I believe all the members on the committee have the information that the clerk sent to you regarding these individuals. One is from Alliance; one is from Brunswick. They're both reappointments to the Nebraska Railway Counsel. Because of that and because of the distance involved, I told them that they could send letters to us instead of driving in today for just a very, very short hearing. I see we have no one here to testify; but you have the letters before you. At this time I would ask if any member has any questions on either the individuals. Perhaps we could try and provide any information that may be lacking. Senator Louden. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR LOUDEN: Yes, Madam Chairman, I would either testify or give my support for Michael Shannon whether do it as a committee member or what. I've known him for many, many years. He works for the Burlington Northern Santa Fe out of Alliance and that's where he's worked for a long time. He's been, oh anywhere from section foreman to track inspector to about any kind of job they needed to do up there. Him and his family have been deer hunting on our property and they always leave everything just like it should be so never any problem with them. So I would certainly recommend Mike Shannon. He's been very good. I've seen him escort ladies across the railroad tracks when they've had the crossings torn up; you know, get them by the arm and help them through there. I mean, this was years ago and so he's a gentlemen's gentleman. So if there's anybody we need on there, it would be Michael Shannon. [CONFIRMATION]

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SENATOR FISCHER: Okay. Thank you, Senator Louden. Any other comments on either of the gentlemen? Seeing...oh, Senator Gay, did you have a comment? Senator Gay waives. Okay, with that, I will close the hearing for the day. [CONFIRMATION]