

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature
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Special Committee on the Election Challenge to the Qualifications of Senator Ernie Chambers of
District 11
April 12, 2017

[QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

The Special Committee on the Election Challenge to the Qualifications of Senator Ernie Chambers of District 11 met at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 12, 2017, in Room 1524 of the State Capitol, Lincoln, Nebraska. Senators present: Dan Watermeier, Chairman; Kate Bolz; Sue Crawford; Dan Hughes; John Kuehn; John McCollister; Jim Scheer. Senators absent: None.

CHUCK HUBKA: (Phone rings.) Senator Watermeier. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

SENATOR WATERMEIER: Yes. Mr. Connolly? [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

WILLIAM CONNOLLY: Yes, Senator, this is Connolly and I have Patrick Guinan with me on speaker phone. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

SENATOR WATERMEIER: Welcome, Mr. Connolly and Mr. Guinan. We're missing one member yet so we're going to wait just a minute here. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

WILLIAM CONNOLLY: Okay. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

SENATOR WATERMEIER: Laura, are you recording? Are you on? I think we're all here, Mr. Connolly, Mr. Guinan. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

WILLIAM CONNOLLY: Okay. I'm on the speaker with, like I said, with Mr. Guinan. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

SENATOR WATERMEIER: Okay, very good. I'm going to go ahead and open up this meeting. We are here today to approve the report to be submitted to the Legislature on the elections challenge to the qualifications of Senator Ernie Chambers, filed by Mr. John Sciara. Mr. Connolly and Mr. Guinan is on the telephone. On April 7, 2017, this committee unanimously adopted the following motion: The special committee recommends to the full Legislature that the petition filed by Mr. Sciara challenging the qualifications of Senator Chambers be dismissed. Pursuant to Rule 10, Section 6 of the Rules of the Nebraska Unicameral, all final decisions of the committee regarding a qualifications challenge shall be reported in writing to the Legislature and approved by a majority of the members of the committee. Report shall include specific recommendations to the Legislature as to the disposition of the challenge. The report reflects the motion adopted last week that recommends that the Legislature deny the challenger's qualifications challenge and dismiss his petition. For the record, there were a couple of very small, minor changes to the report since it was handed out last week...or yesterday. On page 3

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there was a typographical error in the first line, and on page 9 the word "however" was added in the second paragraph, the second sentence. I don't know if I mentioned that to everybody this morning on the floor. There was two minor changes. So is there any other future questions on the report that was delivered and we modified here slightly? [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

SPEAKER SCHEER: Do you need approval to... [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

SENATOR WATERMEIER: I just need a motion to accept the... [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

SENATOR CRAWFORD: Oh. I move that we adopt the report. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

SENATOR WATERMEIER: All right. Thank you, Senator Crawford. Seconded by Speaker Scheer. We have a motion and a second to adopt the report and send it to the Legislature for its full approval. Is there further discussion? All right. Laura, would you call the roll. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

SPEAKER SCHEER: Well, I... [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

SENATOR WATERMEIER: Oh, I'm sorry. Go ahead. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

SPEAKER SCHEER: Because this will be the last time we meet, I... [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

SENATOR WATERMEIER: Maybe. Let's not (inaudible) ourselves. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

SPEAKER SCHEER: Well, I guess I would just like to publicly commend Senator Watermeier for his handling of the committee. (Microphone malfunction) And (inaudible) and the thoroughness and Janice, it made a trying situation much easier, as well to Judge Connolly for direction during the process. I think (inaudible) as well as anyone could have expected. And it's through certainly Senator Watermeier's leadership. So I want to (inaudible). [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

SENATOR WATERMEIER: All right. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that. But most of the credit does go to Janice and to Patrick, Mr. O'Donnell, as well, as far as the Clerk, and you as

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well, Mr. Connolly and Mr. Guinan. Thank you. So is there further discussion on the motion to proceed? Please call the roll, Laura. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

LAURA OLSON: Senator Kuehn. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

SENATOR KUEHN: Yes. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

LAURA OLSON: Senator Bolz. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

SENATOR BOLZ: Yes. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

LAURA OLSON: Senator Crawford. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

SENATOR CRAWFORD: Yes. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

LAURA OLSON: Senator Hughes. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

SENATOR HUGHES: Yes. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

LAURA OLSON: Senator McCollister. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

SENATOR MCCOLLISTER: Yes. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

LAURA OLSON: Speaker Scheer. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

SPEAKER SCHEER: Yes. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

LAURA OLSON: Senator Watermeier. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

SENATOR WATERMEIER: Yes. Motion passes. Report will be delivered to the Legislature and probably be read into the record today, I'm hoping. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

JANICE SATRA: And if you could tell us... [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

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SENATOR WATERMEIER: All right. And I'm going to have all guys sign the report today...
[QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

SENATOR CRAWFORD: Okay. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

SENATOR WATERMEIER: ...the recommendation, and I'll pass that around right now. So with
that, we'll conclude the meeting for today. Thank you, Mr. Connolly. [QUALIFICATIONS
CHALLENGE]

WILLIAM CONNOLLY: And again, thank you for allowing us to serve. It was a pleasure and an
honor. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]

SENATOR WATERMEIER: All right. Thank you so much. [QUALIFICATIONS
CHALLENGE]

SENATOR CRAWFORD: Thank you. [QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGE]