

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
General Affairs Committee May 15, 2019

BRIESE: [00:00:00] Welcome. Good afternoon. Welcome to the General Affairs Committee. My name is Tom Briese. I'm the senator for District 41, which includes nine counties in central and northeast Nebraska. I'm Chair of this committee. We're here today for the purpose of conducting four confirmation hearings. We'll be proceeding in the order of the agenda that's posted outside of the room with one exception. We ask that you begin your testimony by stating and spelling your name for the record, which is very important for our transcribers' office. The order of proceedings is that the nominees will be given an opportunity to open. Then we will listen to any proponent testimony, followed by opponent testimony and then neutral testimony. I'd like to encourage everyone to turn off or silence any cell phones or electronic devices, anything that makes noise. If you have a prepared statement, exhibit, or anything you would like distributed to the committee members, we ask you to provide 12 copies to our page. If you don't have 12 copies, don't worry. Provide what you have; she'll make copies. And I guess we don't have a page here anyway. With that we will-- [00:01:04][63.8]

MOSER: [00:01:05] There's one back here. [00:01:05][0.4]

NEDHAL AL-KAZAHY: [00:01:06] I'm Nedhal. [00:01:06][0.0]

BRIESE: [00:01:06] Oh, excuse me. Yes and I'd like to have our page introduce herself if she would. [00:01:08][2.4]

NEDHAL AL-KAZAHY: [00:01:08] I'm Nedhal, hi. [00:01:08][0.0]

BRIESE: [00:01:11] Thank you. And that-- with that, we will proceed to the introduction of members starting with Vice Chairman Lowe. [00:01:17][5.9]

LOWE: [00:01:18] John Lowe, District 37. I'm going to be coming in and out. I have another Exec over there. [00:01:23][4.8]

BRIESE: [00:01:23] OK. Go ahead. [00:01:23][0.0]

HUNT: [00:01:24] Hi. I'm Megan Hunt and I represent District 8 in midtown Omaha. [00:01:30][6.0]

MOSER: [00:01:33] Mike Moser-- I represent Platte County, Stanton County and parts of Colfax County. [00:01:37][4.0]

BRANDT: [00:01:38] Tom Brandt, District 32: Fillmore, Thayer, Jefferson, Saline, and southwestern Lancaster. [00:01:43][5.2]

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BRIESE: [00:01:43] Thank you again. How about our staff?
[00:01:45][1.2]

LOGUEN BLAZEK: [00:01:45] Loguen Blazek, legal counsel for General
Affairs. [00:01:47][2.0]

ALEX DeGARMO: [00:01:49] Alex DeGarmo, committee clerk.
[00:01:49][0.3]

BRIESE: [00:01:50] OK, very good. Thank you. And with that, we will
open up the hearing on the nomination for George Morrissey. Please
come up and tell us what you'd like to say. [00:02:01][10.7]

GEORGE MORRISSEY: [00:02:02] OK. Good afternoon. I'm George Morrissey,
G-e-o-r-g-e, Morrissey, M-o-r-r-i-s-s-e-y. I am-- I have been a member
of the State Electrical Board for-- since January of 2004. I've got a
long history with the State Electrical Board. I'm-- I am an electrical
engineer. I have a company, Morrissey Engineering. I design buildings
so I'm, I'm, I work extensively with inspectors in various capacities
so I feel like I've been a good, a good partner for the State
Electrical Board for these past many years. I am currently the
president of the State Electrical Board, just-- this would be my
second time as that. I've-- I was president back in 2008 and '09, I
believe. So I think the big challenges that I see with the state
electrical division as a whole are, I think, I think twofold. One,
technology is, is, is really impacting the division and, and in ways
that were not thought of previously. The State Electrical Act that we
have is a document that was written in the '60s where we didn't have
Internet. And so now we're, we're, we're doing things with Ethernet
cabling-- entire lighting systems are all Ethernet cabling. You know,
the act, it's completely-- this is completely new territory for us. So
that's something I think that we're going to need to be working on the
next couple of years. I also think that the division needs-- the
division needs to become more efficient. We've got a lot more permits
and so there's a lot more pressure. I think that we are trying to
challenge our inspectors to be better about, about getting-- about
being efficient with their time, organizing their time more to be able
to handle the additional permits that we're seeing. And, you know,
trying to do that and maintain the most minimal staff possible is, is
a goal of the, of the board and one that I think we'll, you know, will
continue to be challenged with. But those are, you know, a couple of
the many challenges that I see moving forward with the district and or
the division. I'd open it up for comments. [00:04:41][158.3]

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BRIESE: [00:04:41] OK, very good. Thank you very much. Any questions from the committee? Senator Moser. [00:04:45][4.1]

MOSER: [00:04:48] Currently, we're on the 2016 electrical code or what, what is the current code we're using? [00:04:56][8.1]

GEORGE MORRISSEY: [00:04:57] We are on the 2017 electrical code, National Electrical Code, the most current. We've-- we adopt within nine months. [00:05:05][8.7]

MOSER: [00:05:06] And are we required-- well, let me back up. Are contractors required to get permits for low voltage wiring or just 120 and above? [00:05:17][11.0]

GEORGE MORRISSEY: [00:05:22] Right. It's a little bit difficult to answer. The act, again, did not really-- in the '60s didn't really address low voltage cabling; low voltage being the, you know, computer network, cabling, those sort of systems. [00:05:34][11.9]

MOSER: [00:05:35] Signaling and whatever, yeah. [00:05:36][1.2]

GEORGE MORRISSEY: [00:05:36] Yeah. Generally, we've, we've looked at it as a-- as a board we've looked at it as, you know, what voltage we're talking about. So if it, if we're into nonlife safety type voltages, so something below 70 volts, typically we kind of look at those as, as not requiring permits. There, of course, are exceptions and, you know, the lighting example I gave is one where we're, we're considering is there-- even though the voltage may not be of a harmful intent, could there be a situation that we need to be watching over like a light fixture comes out of a ceiling and kills somebody. Is that-- I mean, where-- you know, what obligation should we have to the safety of, of occupants? So, so the answer probably depends, but for the most part I would say low voltage systems are not being permitted currently. [00:06:23][46.9]

MOSER: [00:06:24] Not required to have a permit? [00:06:26][2.3]

GEORGE MORRISSEY: [00:06:27] Not required, yeah. Right. [00:06:27][0.3]

MOSER: [00:06:28] OK. Great. Thank you. [00:06:28][0.1]

GEORGE MORRISSEY: [00:06:28] Not required to be inspected either. [00:06:30][1.3]

MOSER: [00:06:30] Right. OK. Thank you. [00:06:31][1.2]

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BRIESE: [00:06:32] Thank you, Senator Moser. Anyone else? Senator Lowe. [00:06:35][2.3]

LOWE: [00:06:36] Thank you. In your opinion, do we have enough electricians in the state right now, since you've been on the board for several years now? [00:06:45][9.0]

GEORGE MORRISSEY: [00:06:45] Electricians, yes. Electrical inspectors, probably not. We're struggling to get at the, the wage that we're offering with the economy being as it is, there's just-- there doesn't seem to be a lot of attraction towards electrical inspection, so we've got-- we probably need three inspectors just from, you know, people that have retired or whatever the situation is. We've probably-- I think we have a couple of postings out. We're having a difficult time filling those. [00:07:15][30.4]

LOWE: [00:07:17] And how many inspectors do you have now? [00:07:18][0.8]

GEORGE MORRISSEY: [00:07:19] Fourteen. [00:07:19][0.0]

LOWE: [00:07:20] Fourteen. So we need three more, so seventeen. [00:07:21][1.1]

GEORGE MORRISSEY: [00:07:22] Probably need three more. You know, could, could use some SOS help possibly or some, you know, some other temporary services, you know, for the, for the summer push that we have, but we're, we're, we're definitely falling behind on meeting our obligation of getting these permits or these, these inspections done in a timely manner. [00:07:44][22.2]

LOWE: [00:07:44] Thank you. [00:07:44][0.0]

BRIESE: [00:07:45] Thank you, Senator Lowe. Senator Blood. [00:07:47][1.5]

BLOOD: [00:07:47] Thank you, Chairman Briese. And, Mr. Morrissey? [00:07:50][2.2]

GEORGE MORRISSEY: [00:07:50] Yes. [00:07:50][0.0]

BLOOD: [00:07:50] I am-- I apologize for my tardiness. And you may have already addressed this, so if I'm redundant I apologize. So I did a little research, as I do on all the nominees, and I was curious. Are you the same Mr. Morrissey that has made such great advancement when it comes to green energy in Nebraska? [00:08:07][16.9]

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GEORGE MORRISSEY: [00:08:07] Yes. Yeah, that is me. [00:08:07][1.0]

BLOOD: [00:08:08] All right. Well, well done. [00:08:09][0.4]

GEORGE MORRISSEY: [00:08:09] Thank you, thank you. Yeah.
[00:08:09][0.0]

BRIESE: [00:08:09] Thank you, Senator Blood. Anyone else? Seeing no other questions, thank you for your testimony. [00:08:09][0.3]

GEORGE MORRISSEY: [00:08:09] My pleasure. [00:08:09][0.0]

BRIESE: [00:08:09] Much appreciated. [00:08:09][0.0]

GEORGE MORRISSEY: [00:08:09] OK. My pleasure. [00:08:09][0.0]

BRIESE: [00:08:21] And at this point we'll open it up to any proponent or opponent testimony. And seeing none, that would close the hearing on your confirmation. Thank you. [00:08:30][8.8]

GEORGE MORRISSEY: [00:08:30] OK. Thank you very much. [00:08:31][0.9]

BRIESE: [00:08:32] Have a good day. [00:08:32][0.1]

GEORGE MORRISSEY: [00:08:32] Thanks for squeezing me in.
[00:08:34][1.4]

BRIESE: [00:08:34] Perfect. Yeah, no problem. [00:08:36][2.2]

MOSER: [00:08:36] Thanks for being willing to serve. [00:08:38][1.3]

BRIESE: [00:08:39] Yes. [00:08:39][0.0]

GEORGE MORRISSEY: [00:08:39] Yeah, it's my pleasure. Thanks.
[00:08:39][0.3]

HUNT: [00:08:40] Thank you. [00:08:40][0.3]

BRIESE: [00:08:43] And then we're going to have someone calling in. Amy-- [00:08:44][1.4]

ALEX DeGARMO: [00:08:44] Yes, this woman is Ms. Amy Haddad.
[00:08:44][0.0]

BRIESE: [00:08:48] And that's how you pronounce it, Haddad, as far as we know? [00:08:49][1.3]

ALEX DeGARMO: [00:08:50] As far as we know. [00:08:50][0.5]

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BRANDT: [00:08:54] And this is for which position? [00:08:54][0.0]

BRIESE: [00:08:55] Arts Council. [00:08:56][0.2]

AMY HADDAD: [00:08:56] Hello. [00:08:56][0.0]

BRIESE: [00:08:59] Yes. Is this Amy? [00:09:00][1.0]

AMY HADDAD: [00:09:01] Yes, it is. [00:09:02][0.6]

BRIESE: [00:09:02] Yes, Amy, this is Tom Briese. I'm Chairperson of the General Affairs Committee. I'm sitting here with my fellow committee members and staff. Thank you for calling in; we appreciate that. And we would like to open your-- the hearing on your confirmation and have you state and spell your name for the record, and then please share with us anything you would like to.
[00:09:23][21.1]

AMY HADDAD: [00:09:24] OK. My name is Amy Haddad, A-m-y, last name is H-a-d-d-a-d. I am very interested in supporting this art in all of its forms, in performance art or visual art or just everything. And I think serving on the Nebraska Arts Council is going to give me an opportunity to lend my support to the importance of art across the state in as many venues in reaching as many people as we possibly can.
[00:10:04][39.5]

BRIESE: [00:10:04] OK, very good. We appreciate that. If no further comments from you, I'll open it up to questions from my fellow committee members and we have-- [00:10:17][13.6]

AMY HADDAD: [00:10:17] That's fine. [00:10:18][0.0]

BRIESE: [00:10:18] And we have Senator Blood with a question.
[00:10:20][2.3]

BLOOD: [00:10:22] Good afternoon. And I have to say I like your lofty vision for Nebraska. I have to ask, based on what you just said, why are you choosing to serve on this committee personally, for yourself? What, what do you hope to gain from being on this, this board?
[00:10:42][20.7]

AMY HADDAD: [00:10:44] Well, actually today is a good example of what I'm gaining. We are reviewing-- and I'm just auditing because I'm not officially on the board but listening to the discussion around the arts education grant from all over the state. And that experience alone has just opened my eyes to all the different things that are going on around the state from, you know, partnerships between

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community colleges and grade schools or libraries being a part of a way to get art into the community. And you can imagine right now a lot of these grants are for things to do in the summer. And so for children especially, you know, since they're education grants, a lot of them are directed at K-12. And just the different kinds of arts projects and theater opportunities and music, I'm just amazed at all the things that are going on around the state, so I'm learning a lot about the communities and the kinds of partnerships and projects that, you know, they're homegrown. They come out of the different cities and towns of Nebraska, and so I've learned a lot just today.

[00:11:58][74.2]

BLOOD: [00:11:58] Fair enough. And I agree with you, we have a very rich community of artists here in Nebraska with a variety of mediums. So I, I-- that's exactly what I needed to hear. Thank you very much.

[00:12:11][12.8]

AMY HADDAD: [00:12:11] OK. [00:12:11][0.0]

BRIESE: [00:12:12] Thank you, Senator Blood. And now we have Senator Arch with a question. [00:12:17][4.6]

ARCH: [00:12:17] Hi, Amy. This is Senator Arch. I-- the question-- are you still-- are you still involved at Creighton? [00:12:23][5.7]

AMY HADDAD: [00:12:24] I'm a professor emeritus, so I am. I've just finished teaching a course in an adjunct role for them. So that's my relationship right now. [00:12:33][9.7]

ARCH: [00:12:35] Great. I-- you know, we obviously had contact with each other while you were, while you were there and while I was at Boys Town. I, I, I just wanted to say thanks for continuing your involvement in the community and, and stepping up into, into something like this. [00:12:48][13.3]

AMY HADDAD: [00:12:48] Oh. [00:12:48][0.0]

ARCH: [00:12:48] I agree, I agree your vision is, is, is right on for what's needed and just, just appreciate your willingness to volunteer for something like this. [00:12:59][10.7]

AMY HADDAD: [00:12:59] Oh, good. Thank you. [00:12:59][0.0]

BRIESE: [00:13:01] Thank you, Senator Arch. Any other questions? Seeing no other questions, at this point we typically open up the hearing process to any opposition or proponent testimony and seeing none, that would conclude our hearing on your confirmation today, and

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we really appreciate you calling in and stepping up to serve here,
Amy. [00:13:23][21.3]

AMY HADDAD: [00:13:24] Wonderful. Thank you. It's nice to talk to you.
[00:13:26][2.2]

BRIESE: [00:13:27] Likewise. Take care. [00:13:27][0.6]

AMY HADDAD: [00:13:28] Uh-huh, bye. [00:13:28][0.0]

BRIESE: [00:13:28] Good bye. And that closes the hearing on Amy
Haddad. OK, we got the next one coming. Walt Seiler, Arts Council.
Hello. [00:13:41][12.9]

WALTER SEILER: [00:14:17] Hello, this is Wally Seiler in Alliance.
[00:14:17][0.1]

BRIESE: [00:14:23] Mr. Seiler, thank you for calling in. I'm Tom
Briese. I'm Chairperson of the General Affairs Committee, sitting here
in Lincoln today with fellow members of the committee. And we're going
to open the confirmation on your nomination to the Arts Council. I'd
like to have you state and spell your name for the record and then
provide us with any information you would care to share with us. And
at that point we'll open it up to questions of you from the committee
members. So please go ahead and proceed. [00:14:51][28.7]

WALTER SEILER: [00:14:52] Okay. My first name is spelled W-a-l-l-y, my
last name is S-e-i-l-e-r. Do you have, do you have the information
that I've provided you already? [00:15:07][15.1]

BRIESE: [00:15:08] Yes, we do have that information. [00:15:11][3.2]

WALTER SEILER: [00:15:12] OK. Well, you know, I guess I would just be
pretty much the same. The arts have always been a important part of my
life when I was younger, and it continued into my adult life. As you
can see from the material that's been provided to you, I'm currently
the president of the board of directors of the Post Playhouse at Fort
Robinson State Park. I'm part of the Speakers Bureau for the
Humanities Nebraska. And I've done that for probably 35 years,
something like that. I, I've been on the-- I served two terms on the
Nebraska Library Commission. And I have also served on the-- not
exactly the name of the-- sure of the name of the committee, but it's
a judicial nomination review committee for our judicial district out
here, so. So if you have any questions, I'd be glad to answer.
Personally, I do want to tell you, though, thank you for letting me

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call in as opposed to having to drive to Lincoln, so--
[00:16:22][70.2]

BRIESE: [00:16:22] No, that's certainly not a problem for us. We appreciate you calling in. And thank you for that testimony. I'll open up to any questions from my fellow committee members. [00:16:33][10.6]

WALTER SEILER: [00:16:33] Sure. [00:16:33][0.0]

BRIESE: [00:16:37] Senator Moser. [00:16:39][2.2]

MOSER: [00:16:41] Just a comment that, that the fact that you'd call in rather than drive in shows your good common sense. That's a five or ten minute hearing and it's five or six hours at least from Alliance here, isn't it? [00:16:56][15.7]

WALTER SEILER: [00:16:58] It is. It is. [00:16:58][0.0]

MOSER: [00:17:00] Yeah. Thank you. [00:17:00][0.0]

BRIESE: [00:17:01] Thank you, Senator Moser. [00:17:02][1.0]

ARCH: [00:17:03] OK. I've got a question. [00:17:04][1.6]

BRIESE: [00:17:05] Senator Arch. [00:17:05][0.0]

ARCH: [00:17:05] Hi. This is Senator Arch, and I, I noticed you've had quite a bit of activity with libraries and, and all of that. How did you-- what's, what's your passion in that area? [00:17:21][16.4]

WALTER SEILER: [00:17:22] Well, you know, interestingly enough I, I'm not the greatest library user in the world. I tend to like to buy books and I, and I can read them at my leisure. I don't have to get them back in two weeks. But, but I have a, I have a real appreciation for what libraries represent. They represent, in my judgment, where you can go to get truth in a democracy like ours. I know that when I was on the Nebraska Library Commission, we spent a lot of money and effort in getting databases for the libraries around the state that could be trusted. I just think that-- I just think that the libraries are a bastion of, of information and truth. And I think they're very, very important to democracy. And so, so even though I'm not a great user of library services-- I'm currently a member of the, the board of trustees for the Alliance Library but-- and I do lots to help them raise money and, you know, get programming and that sort of thing, but I, I'm not much of a user myself. But I just, I just think it represents our democracy. [00:18:40][78.4]

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ARCH: [00:18:41] Great. Thank you. [00:18:42][1.0]

BRIESE: [00:18:43] Thank you, Senator Arch. Any other questions? Seeing none, Mr. Seiler, certainly appreciate you calling in. At this point we typically open up the testimony to any proponents or opponents. Seeing none, that would conclude our hearing on your confirmation. And thank you again for calling in. Thank you again for stepping up to serve. Greatly appreciated. [00:19:05][22.2]

WALTER SEILER: [00:19:06] Well, you're very welcome. Thank you very much for calling. [00:19:09][2.7]

BRIESE: [00:19:10] You bet. Have a good day. [00:19:10][0.0]

WALTER SEILER: [00:19:10] Thank you. [00:19:11][0.8]

BRIESE: [00:19:14] That'll close the hearing on Walter Seiler, and we'll open the hearing on Susan Lutz to the Nebraska Commission on Problem Gambling. L-u-t-z, that would be Lutz. [00:19:24][9.5]

MOSER: [00:19:28] I saw a really good cartoon on buying books. And it shows a lady sitting in a recliner with a bunch of books all stacked around her. She says, I have a problem with books. I buy them and I buy them and I can't read them fast enough. I'll have to tell the rest of the story later. [00:19:43][14.6]

BRIESE: [00:19:48] Yes. Ms. Lutz? [00:19:50][2.4]

SUSAN LUTZ: [00:19:50] Yes. [00:19:50][0.0]

BRIESE: [00:19:51] Yeah, this is Tom Briese. I'm Chairperson of the General Affairs Committee. I'm sitting here in Lincoln with fellow members of my committee. And thank you for calling-- [00:20:02][10.7]

SUSAN LUTZ: [00:20:02] Hi, Tom. [00:20:02][0.1]

BRIESE: [00:20:02] Hi. Thank you for calling in. And what we will do is have you state and spell your name and then go ahead and tell us what you would like to share with us. And when you're finished with that we'll open it up to any questions from the committee members. So go ahead and proceed. [00:20:18][16.2]

SUSAN LUTZ: [00:20:19] OK. My name is Susan Lutz. I am from Norfolk, Nebraska, and I am calling in regarding the appointment to the Commission of Problem Gambling, [INAUDIBLE]. [00:20:32][13.2]

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BRIESE: [00:20:33] OK. Very good. Anything you would like to share with the committee? [00:20:39][5.4]

SUSAN LUTZ: [00:20:42] Well, I, I'm happy to answer any questions. Right now I live in Norfolk with my husband. My family's all grown. And so I am the CFO at BankFirst, which is a community bank in Norfolk, and it's a great place to be. So I have, I kind of enjoy the commission work just because it's interesting to be involved with a cause that's important and it's interesting to kind of be involved in this process. I've never been involved in a process like this before. Kind of my role is to analyze data and look at financial stuff. So but it is a-- I think we do some pretty awesome work. [00:21:37][54.5]

BRIESE: [00:21:38] OK. Well, very good. Thank you for sharing that with us. And at this point I'll open it up to questions from fellow committee members. Senator Hunt has a question. [00:21:47][9.1]

HUNT: [00:21:48] Thank you, Senator Briese. Hi, there Ms. Lutes [PHONETIC]-- Lutz, sorry. [00:21:49][1.5]

SUSAN LUTZ: [00:21:50] Lutz. It's Lutz. [00:21:50][0.1]

HUNT: [00:21:53] I have a friend with the same last name and it's pronounced different so thank you for calling-- [00:21:57][3.8]

SUSAN LUTZ: [00:21:57] Must be from Lincoln. [00:21:58][1.2]

HUNT: [00:21:59] I wanted to ask, what is your-- what is your personal interest in serving on this, on this commission and what, what drove you to apply? [00:22:10][11.5]

SUSAN LUTZ: [00:22:13] Well, originally, when they were-- when we moved the commission from the Department of Behavioral Health or whatever, Behavioral Health Services or DHHS and they were looking to start a commission-- and I have a good friend, Mike Sullivan, who is a gambling counselor here in Norfolk. And he's a personal friend-- we have kids the same age. And he had to submit names for consideration, and so he asked me if I'd be interested. He told me about what the, what the commission would be involved with, and so at that time I applied, kind of not knowing, you know, what I was getting into. And so since then I have now-- this is my second-- I've reapplied once before and now this is my second reapplication. And so it has become kind of a interesting thing that Nebraska has no gambling legally-- gambling-- but we do have folks affected by it because of neighboring states and just plain the pervasive nature of gambling on the Internet. And I think it's like anything else. Done responsibly, it's

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a, it's a thing that folks can handle and what-- but if you have a propensity and it's a problem, then we need to have a system in place to help those folks; and that's what I like about it. [00:23:47][94.8]

HUNT: [00:23:49] Thank you, Ms. Lutz. [00:23:49][0.2]

SUSAN LUTZ: [00:23:50] Yep. [00:23:50][0.0]

BRIESE: [00:23:51] Thank you, Senator Hunt. Senator Blood has a question for us. [00:23:54][3.4]

BLOOD: [00:23:55] Thank you, Chairman Briese. And how are you today, Ms. Lutz? [00:23:56][1.3]

SUSAN LUTZ: [00:23:58] I am good. I'm sitting outside in my car, actually, right now. I just came from another meeting and it's beautiful out. [00:24:03][4.6]

BLOOD: [00:24:03] Well, I'm jealous 'cause I heard a rumor there was sunshine, but I, I have no verification of that. [00:24:08][4.4]

SUSAN LUTZ: [00:24:10] It's awesome. [00:24:11][1.0]

BLOOD: [00:24:11] So I'm going to ask you a hard question, and I want to thank you for your answer to Senator Hunt because that was my question and you did an excellent job. I don't know why I keep looking up at the ceiling, you're not there. And you did an excellent job of answering that question. And so I'm going to ask you a hard question. So I agree with you that we are helping gamblers in Nebraska who are not necessarily gambling in our state, but coming from, say, Iowa, Kansas, and it's 1 to 3 percent of Nebraska's population. And I am happy to help them get their addiction together. And we spend, as you know, millions doing that and I know that we just gave an additional \$300,000 in a bill that we just passed. [00:24:56][44.8]

SUSAN LUTZ: [00:24:57] We thank you for that. [00:24:58][0.7]

BLOOD: [00:25:00] But here's the question that I'm leading up to. So one of the things that I would like to hear your opinion on, and it's not a trick question, is that the federal courts have made it very clear that fantasy sports-- and I'm not talking about sports betting like Iowa just passed-- [00:25:18][18.2]

SUSAN LUTZ: [00:25:21] Sure. Uh-huh. [00:25:22][0.2]

BLOOD: [00:25:22] --is not gambling because it does not meet all three criteria that defines gambling. So for instance, bingo in the Catholic

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Church which, of course, I am not against, is considered gambling and we allow that in Nebraska. Knowing that the courts have said that, knowing that there is serious income generation that can be-- serious income that can be generated from that, if that was put to your organization, what, what would be your opinion on something like that? Would you say that the federal court is right or that we should fight that? And again, this is not a trick question. I'm not going to hold it for or against you. [00:26:00][38.6]

SUSAN LUTZ: [00:26:00] Sure. [00:26:00][0.0]

BLOOD: [00:26:00] I'm just curious where you stand. [00:26:01][0.8]

SUSAN LUTZ: [00:26:03] Well, there's probably two stances. As a commission member, I have no opinions. I wouldn't make-- we are neutral on gambling. It is our job to disseminate the funds that you allow us to disseminate to help with problem gambling. And so it's kind of funny. If we, if we outlawed it, if there was no gambling, then there wouldn't be a need for the commission and that would be just fine. But there is, so here we have it. Personally, I think it's a problem when it becomes-- when it alters someone's life to the point where they steal to get the money or where it alters their life where they can't make their mortgage because they're playing a game. So personally, I, I hope that we all understand that if, if those things are made legal, our commission is going to need more money to deal with it. And that is, I think, what our commission is for, is to deal with the problems set forth that other folks have decided to cause, for lack of better words. And I'm not a politician, I'm not a, I'm not a, I, I, I'm a, I'm just a person who-- I mean, I think that's a pretty pragmatic approach is, here we are. We need to fix the problem when it exists. And so if we pass a law that creates a bigger problem, then we're going to need more money to fix it. [00:27:39][95.8]

BLOOD: [00:27:40] And you may not be a politician, but you gave a very politically correct answer, so well done. So you led me-- but you led me to another question then. So knowing that things like fantasy sports do-- already do exist and it's already going on, and Nebraska does not regulate it in any form, what I hear you saying is that if something exists it should be regulated. Do I hear you correctly?
[00:28:02][22.7]

SUSAN LUTZ: [00:28:06] You know, I don't know. If I were going to say I thought it needed to be regulated, then in my head I would have to have a plan in my head on how you would do that, and I don't know how

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that would happen yet. I, I don't, I haven't figured that out in my brain. [00:28:15][8.3]

BLOOD: [00:28:21] And that's fair enough, because I actually have a plan for it. But I-- [00:28:24][2.7]

SUSAN LUTZ: [00:28:24] Oh, awesome. [00:28:24][0.1]

BLOOD: [00:28:25] I appreciate your honest answers and, and thank you so much for serving. [00:28:30][4.5]

SUSAN LUTZ: [00:28:31] Oh, thank you. [00:28:32][0.4]

BRIESE: [00:28:33] Thank you, Senator Blood. Any other questions? Ms. Lutz, I see no further questions. And we really appreciate you calling in today and sharing some insights on some of these issues and, as is typical, now I would open up the committee [INAUDIBLE] or the hearing to proponent testimony or opponent testimony. And seeing none, that would conclude your confirmation hearing for today. Again, we appreciate your calling in, appreciate your willingness to serve. And great to visit with you. [00:29:05][32.1]

SUSAN LUTZ: [00:29:06] Thank you. [00:29:06][0.2]

BRIESE: [00:29:08] Yep. Have a good day. [00:29:08][0.2]

SUSAN LUTZ: [00:29:09] You, you folks, too. Thank you very much. [00:29:11][1.5]

BRIESE: [00:29:11] Thank you. So that will close the hearing there. [00:29:15][3.7]

BLOOD: [00:29:15] Motion to go into Executive Session. [00:29:16][0.9]

BRIESE: [00:29:17] Perfect. [00:29:17][0.0]

BRANDT: [00:29:18] Second.