

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee March 15, 2019

BREWER: [RECORDER MALFUNCTION] Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. My name's Tom Brewer. I represent the 43rd District. I am the Chair for this committee. We will start today by introductions of our committee starting with Carol Blood.

BLOOD: Well, you just did it. So--

BREWER: The district stuff.

BLOOD: Good afternoon, I'm Senator Carol Blood. I represent District 3, which is western Bellevue and southeastern Papillion, Nebraska.

LOWE: John Lowe, District 37, which is only half under water right now.

HILGERS: Mike Hilgers, District 21, northwest Lincoln and Lancaster County.

La GRONE: Andrew La Grone, District 49, Gretna and Northwest Sarpy County.

M. HANSEN: Matt Hansen, District 26, northeast Lincoln.

KOLOWSKI: Rick Kolowski, District 31 in southwest Omaha.

BREWER: And Senator Hunt, I think has another presentation to give and she'll be here. To my right is the committee legal counsel, Dick Clark, and Senator La Grone is the Vice Chair. Julie Condon is the committee clerk. Our pages are Preston and Kaci. And, Senator Hunt, why don't you go ahead and do your introduction.

HUNT: Hi everybody, I'm Senator Megan Hunt, and I represent midtown Omaha.

BREWER: Thank you. All right. A couple of administrative things we'll knock out first here. If you have a cell phone or electronic device, please silence it at this time. Please keep in mind that the senators will be using their cell phones and computers to track the bills and also to communicate if they have to go somewhere else for another hearing. If you wish to record your attendance, the white sheets are over on the table. If you wish to present, our green sheets to be, green sheets to be filled out, please present them to the committee clerk or the pages when you come forward. If you have materials to hand out we would ask that you have 12 copies. If you do not have that

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee March 15, 2019

many copies, you can get them to the pages and they will make copies for you. Any letters that are being submitted for the official record need to be in by 5:00 p.m. the day prior. The letter should include your name, address, the bill number, your position on the bill either for or against or neutral. Any mass mailings will not be included in that official record. For those that are gonna speak on a given bill, we'd ask that you come forward to the first two rows. When you do come up to testify, please state your name, spell your name, speak clearly into the microphone so that the official record is correct. The procedures today, we will have the senator do the opening on the bill, then we'll have proponents, opponents, and those in the neutral position. And lastly, we'll have the senator come back to close. We'll use a light system. It will be five minutes, the green light for four, the amber four one, and then the red light. There'll also be an audible alarm in case you missed the light. With that said, today we will be hearing two bills. The first, LB704, with Senator McCollister, and LB709 with Senator Cavanaugh. With that said, Senator McCollister, welcome to the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee.

McCOLLISTER: Yeah, thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Good afternoon, Chairman Brewer and members of the committee. I'm John, J-o-h-n, McCollister, M-c-C-o-l-l-i-s-t-e-r, and I represent the 20th Legislative District in Omaha, Nebraska. The availability of so-called green energy has been a deciding factor by large data processing companies like Google, Facebook, and Yahoo in their decision to locate in Nebraska. No one can deny that the presidents of our present-- presence of our abundant solar and wind energy has given our state a leg up in the competition to site major data centers. Apparently, these global companies recognize that global warming is real and have become proactive in ways to deal with this existential threat. If this ecological foundations of our society are in fact in peril, shouldn't the state of Nebraska follow the same course of action and require the purchase of renewable energy? Today, I'm introducing LB704. LB704 would provide the following: LB704 requires the Department of Administrative Services to analyze and compile the results of the Nebraska Benchmarking and Beyond Initiative to, to assess the utilization of resources which includes the use of in-state renewable energy generation for state-owned buildings. This Act requires the Department of Administrative Services to prepare requests for proposals to purchase energy including renewable energy for state buildings. The University of Nebraska would also be required to purchase energy from renewable sources in a similar manner as required of the state. The goal is to have 50 percent of the energy used in

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee March 15, 2019

state-owned and university buildings coming from renewable energy sources by 2022. An increase in the 80 percent of energy used by 2031. Finally, LB704 requires the Transportation and Service Bureau of the Department of Administrative Services to conduct a study to identify cost effective method, method of investing in electric vehicle use by the state of Nebraska. Incidentally, AM69-- 679 removes the Volkswagen Settlement Cash Fund as a source of funds for this study as the Department of Environmental Quality notified us that this study would not be an acceptable use for these settlement funds. It's estimated that Nebraska taxpayers expend about \$120 million annually, annually on the cost associated with energy purchases for some 3,200 buildings housing the operations of the Nebraska state government, state university system, and the state college system. These monies are included in our annual budget deliberations. I introduced LB704 to focus on these costs and to leverage several existing initiatives that are showing promise to decrease costs and increase the stability of our state budget. I included the university system's buildings in the statewide building total mentioned a moment ago. I removed the requirement placed on the University as contained in the green copy of this bill. Although, AM679, which I offer now in recognition of their ongoing utilization of renewable and carbon neutral energy sources. I do not want to hinder the progress that the university has already made in reducing their energy use and because they are already aligned with many of the goals that I seek to accomplish under this Act. I felt comfortable removing them with LB-- from the LB704 requirements. If the state college system could demonstrate the same kind of commitment, I would be happy to remove them from the bill as well. As noted, the university buildings will fall not-- will, will not fall under the state building definition. The Board of Regents, however, are required to provide a report of the university's renewable and carbon neutral energy utilization to the Legislature by December 15th of every odd year so we have a record of their energy reduction efforts. I tried to arrange for the chief financial officer of the University of Nebraska to testify today to share with you the energy projects that they have done, but he had a major-- had a prior commit-- commitment out of town and has provided a letter in lieu of his testimony. I should also mention that AM679 adds the words carbon neutral where the term renewable energy was found. So now the phrase will read renewable or carbon neutral energy to reflect current practice and usage. On a parallel track, the Nebraska Energy Office collaborate-- collaborated with the Department of Administrative Services which is using funds from the United States Department of Energy entitled Nebraska Initiative-Benchmarking and Beyond to measure

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee March 15, 2019

the energy performance of buildings we operate. Accordingly to the building projects, buildings account for 40 percent of the total energy used in the United States. With this initiative, the state could realize a potential savings of hundreds of millions of dollars over a period, a period of ten years. This is why I brought LB704. I would encourage this committee to advance the bill. Thank you very much, and I'll be happy to take any questions.

BREWER: All right. Thank you for your testimony. Questions? Senator Blood.

BLOOD: Thank you, Chairman Brewer. How are you today, Senator McCollister?

McCOLLISTER: Senator Blood.

BLOOD: Can you talk a little bit about the fiscal note and how the amendment that we received will affect the fiscal note?

McCOLLISTER: Well, as you, as you noted it does carry a \$50,000 fiscal note. But this was to enable the Department of General Services to use-- utilize request for proposals. But you know, I think that's probably in their, their general scope of, of work. So I, I think that \$50,000 could very well be eliminated with a committee amendment.

BLOOD: Fair enough. Thank you.

BREWER: OK. Additional questions? All right. Well, I'll save most of these for the end. But let's, let's kind of backtrack a little bit here. How much energy in Nebraska right now is being produced by what would be considered carbon-neutral energy?

McCOLLISTER: Well, all I have to, to determine a reference is what the big utilities in Nebraska offer. And I, and I think the, the general number is around 30 percent for NPPD and I think OPPD is probably 40 percent.

BREWER: With the numbers you're looking at I guess the part where I'm struggling a little bit is, if we're to have those kind of numbers in that 50 to 80 percent range, yet the max amount we're producing is in the 30 or with some changes 40 percent, we're gonna have to buy power from the Southwest Power Pool in order to match the numbers that you want to use here. Would that be correct?

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee March 15, 2019

McCOLLISTER: Well, the way the Southwest Power Pool works is I don't think they necessarily determine or select the generators based on whether it's renewable or whether some other energy source. I think they simply use the, the cheapest source available. So in recent years that's, that's been generally wind because it has no fuel component.

BREWER: OK, let's, let's back up on that one. So you're telling me the fuel to produce energy is cheaper with wind than with coal and natural gas?

McCOLLISTER: Yes.

BREWER: Really? All right. We'll check some of those facts between now and when you close. OK. Any other questions? Seeing none, thank you for the opening.

McCOLLISTER: Thank you, sir.

BREWER: OK, we will start with proponents of LB704. Any proponents? Welcome to the Government Committee.

REBECCA SETH: Thank you. My name is Rebecca Seth, spelled R-e-b-e-c-c-a S-e-t-h. I'm a co-leader of Lincoln's Chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby, a nonpartisan volunteer organization dedicated to building political will for a livable planet. And I just want to point out that today thousands of youth are demonstrating to ask us to act on climate change and this is a step in that direction. We heartily endorse LB704 and thank Senator McCollister for its introduction. Increasing the efficiency of state-owned buildings is the most economically viable way to save energy costs and decrease carbon emissions. Our state has enormous potential for expanding its use of locally sourced renewable energy and emphasis on expanding these resources in a timely manner would provide good quality jobs while doing what is necessary to combat the challenges of climate change. Electric vehicles run by renewable energy can dramatically reduce fuel and maintenance costs. This bill is an investment in the future that will pay off in savings to the state. Please move it forward.

BREWER: All right. Thank you for your testimony. Questions? All right. Seeing none, thank you. All right. Next proponent. Welcome to the Government Committee.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee March 15, 2019

RICHARD LOMBARDI: Thank you, Senator. Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, members of the committee. My name's Richard Lombardi, R-i-c-h-a-r-d L-o-m-b-a-r-d-i, appearing today on behalf of the Advanced Power Alliance. Advanced Power Alliance is a consortium of companies that develop utility scale, wind solar, and storage. And they operate primarily within the Southwest Power Pool footprint and the [INAUDIBLE] footprint which is basically the Great Plains states. I have-- we support this particular bill and I guess in our overall approach of this bill is that much of this work is already being done. But I do think that the-- what I think LB704 does is, is an expedited encouragement of that work. I think as was pointed out earlier that what-- I think it was Winston Churchill that says, first we shape our buildings and they shape us. And that in the area of, of this that probably the biggest impact that we can have is in what we do with our buildings. And there's a lot of good work being done and this bill attempts to build on it. First page I wanted to show you is in this is part of the benchmark project which has been referred to in the bill. And this just gives you the overall energy costs as it relates to state government, the state university system. And if you go down there the work that's already been done that's been targeted, the biggest source of actually energy is energy efficiency. About [INAUDIBLE]-- it's probably the third largest source of energy out there. And, and you will see there a projected savings of 20 percent over, over 10 years. That part of the benchmark study was targeting which is a pretty significant number that, that alone represents basically your biennium budget that you will be voting on later this month. The-- our staff put together-- taking a look there's a monthly report that DAS puts out as to state expenditures and accounting financials. And what we've presented here on the next page is to show you some of the differences between projections and actual expenditures and the, the differentials in that. And I think that's one of the areas of long-term stability of, of funding that. One of the advantages that we will see as we move into greater energy efficiency in our buildings and the utilization of renewable energy sources is that they are actually a fixed cost resource. One of the attractiveness of it is that and as people have demonstrated this the most are probably our public power system in the public power, power purchase agreements that they are able to enter into agreements that over a 20-year period of time they know what the energy will cost now and later. One of the few areas in life where you can do those types of projections. Be that as it may, I think that there is-- this is an area that I think the legislative oversight would be well-served to encourage the, the-- and be of assistance to the folks that are

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee March 15, 2019

working both at the state level who have, who have done the assessment. A lot of the heavy lifting as to the performance in the, in the existing buildings is already being done. The University of Nebraska has some very, very demonstrative projects that they have completed that shows this works and I think they've all been assisted by the public power industry. So I think to the degree that you can assist in the inclusivity of getting those experts together and moving here will provide, and as was suggested in the bill, not only economic savings and efficiency but also that those buildings that housed very important people are, are healthier. So that concludes my remarks and I'd be happy to answer any questions. Also on the back, back page there is who makes up my trade association who are mostly a lot of different developers and utilities across the country. I think clearly there's enough expertise in this state. But if in fact we-- that association or any other members can be of assistance, we would be more than happy to.

BREWER: All right. Thank you for your testimony.

RICHARD LOMBARDI: Thank you, Senator.

BREWER: Questions? All right. Let me hit you up since I already hit Senator McCollister up with this. If we're just looking at cold hard facts as we are right now the cost to produce energy, what would be the cheapest of the options out there?

RICHARD LOMBARDI: Energy efficiency. Clearly, that's-- and that's it-- that shows right here that that's, that's without any-- I mean, that there will be required expenditures. But I, I think that pound for pound, dollar for dollar that energy efficiency is, is probably is, is, is, is probably the most. Senator, I do have a packet I've put together, but I don't have it on me, but I'd be happy to forward it to your office that does a comparison between the costs of, of the various--

BREWER: It would be like coal and natural gas, nuclear--

RICHARD LOMBARDI: Right, coal and natural gas that might, that might lay that out. It, it also builds in the question I think of, of-- anyhow, I, I do have that and I would be happy to send-- I'll send that over to your office.

BREWER: That'd be great.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee March 15, 2019

RICHARD LOMBARDI: OK, be happy to.

BREWER: OK. The wording changed between the original bill and the amendment and part of I think what's caused a little bit of confusion is that the amendment came so late that it was kind of hard to digest it and really compare the two and understand exactly what the impact of what that amendment was gonna be. But in there, it used the term of carbon neutral.

RICHARD LOMBARDI: Right.

BREWER: Talk a little about carbon neutral or carbon free.

RICHARD LOMBARDI: Yeah, the, the, the, the carbon neutral moniker would, would, would clearly include the nuclear power resources.

BREWER: OK.

RICHARD LOMBARDI: So that, that in addition to the, the standard renewable resources would be-- would fall within the same rubric. But obviously nuclear power is a major source in Nebraska so that would be [INAUDIBLE]. And then of course hydro, I think some of the states-- the state has had some agreements with the, the Western Area Power Association I believe to provide hydro which is a, a-- obviously, noncarbon related resource and a, and a significant one. So those would be in addition to what we currently-- you know, we talk about oftentimes with solar and wind as part of a, a carbon neutral type of an approach.

BREWER: Does Nebraska produce any hydro? Does, does--

RICHARD LOMBARDI: Well, there was a dam that just unfortunately went out yesterday. A small one.

BREWER: And-- let me think, is the one at Ogallala, does it produce-- it's a generator?

RICHARD LOMBARDI: Yeah.

BREWER: OK. All right. Any additional questions? All right. Thank you for your testimony, sir.

RICHARD LOMBARDI: Thank you.

BREWER: Welcome to the Government Committee.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee March 15, 2019

KENNETH WINSTON: Thank you, Chairman Brewer. I need to begin by apologizing for the quality of my voice. I've got a cold.

BREWER: That's all right.

KENNETH WINSTON: If I'm growling today, I, I-- it's not my intention to. Hope-- hopefully, I'll make it through my testimony. Good afternoon, Chairman Brewer and, and members of the Government Committee, Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. I'm-- my name is Ken or Kenneth Winston, K-e-n-n-e-t-h W-i-n-s-t-o-n, appearing on behalf of Nebraska Interfaith Power and Light in support of LB704. The first thing that we want to emphasize is this, is this, this makes good financial sense for the state of Nebraska. I mean, who doesn't want to save money and, and who doesn't want to save taxpayer money and so energy efficiency makes sense. Back in another lifetime I was on the Lincoln School Board and we embarked on a project to make our-- all the schools in Lincoln more energy efficient. And they've by-- well it's taken them some 25 years to get through that but they've basically gone through their entire school system and currently they're saving more than \$7 million a year on energy costs based upon the fact that they've, they've made all their buildings more energy efficient and those are savings for taxpayers. And in addition a more energy efficient building is often a safer and more comfortable building. Next thing is, is renewable energy. Nebraska has lots of renewable energy. We have wind. We have solar. We don't have fossil fuel resources and renewable energy provides lots of economic benefits to the people of the state. It creates jobs. There's lease payments and property taxes for local governments. State investment, it would be an investment in the state and its people which will be returned through economic activity and revenues for state and level-- local government. Let me talk just a little bit about electric vehicles. Electric vehicles aren't getting a lot of attention right now but it's a market that's gonna hugely expand. But once again, this, this represents another financial opportunity for the state because of the fact that, that electric vehicles can save money for the state of Nebraska and its political subdivisions. There was a study that was done recently that indicated that, that an electric vehicle could save over \$1,200 a year over a conventional vehicle. And, and because of the fact that you're not paying as much for fuel, you're also not paying as much for, for maintenance costs such as, as oil changes and things like that. There's also the VW settlement out there that, that could provide funding for, for these kinds of-- for that kind of investment. I guess I want to just talk a little bit

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee March 15, 2019

about climate change. The, the tragic events of the last couple days really highlight the impacts that climate change is having on our, on our planet and our state and the fact that we've had-- this is the third-- I don't know whether it's, whether it's a 500-year flood, but it's the third major flood in the last 10 years. And, and combined with other major weather impacts, they're really having a devastating impact on lots of people. And we need to start thinking about that and how we can address those kinds of things. Finally I guess, I just want to talk a lot a little bit about it, as Mr. Lombardi indicated, energy efficiency is the lowest cost energy resource. It provides benefits on every level. You can-- the jobs are, are all local because of the fact that you can't, you can't outsource an energy efficiency job. It's got to be done by somebody in your community. And as I indicated it can provide lots of other benefits. Renewable energy can provide many benefits. It emits no greenhouse gases or other harm--harmful pollutants like mercury which is a dangerous neurotoxin which is particularly harmful to developing fetuses and small children. It also uses no, no water unlike, unlike fossil fuel generation. And Mr. Lombardi said he had a chart on, on energy costs. It's my understanding that wind energy is currently the lowest cost generation, generation resource. It's helping public power keep-- power districts keep electric rates low. I know that LES is saving lots of money by investing in, in renewable energy. It's also an important economic development tool attracting cutting edge business--businesses like Facebook to Nebraska. Solar energy costs continue to decline and currently are on par with many fossil fuel costs. Electric vehicles can save money and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We encourage the committee to advance LB704 for debate by the entire Legislature. Thank you. And I'd be glad to respond to questions.

BREWER: All right. Thank you for your testimony. Questions? I guess I'd have one. And I'm, I'm still a little puzzled on this one. When you say the wind is the cheapest, is that with or without subsidies?

KENNETH WINSTON: Well, I look at it as, as the cost that, that, that the folks that, that pay for it have to pay. So if I'm at-- the person at Lincoln Electric System who decides how much they have to pay then that is currently a lower cost than they have to pay for fossil fuels.

BREWER: OK. So ultimately someone is paying the difference between what it would cost for natural gas, coal, and what it would cost for

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee March 15, 2019

wind. What you're saying is the subsidies cause that to where wind is cheaper.

KENNETH WINSTON: Well, well, the question was what is the, the cheapest cost? And I tried to-- I'm trying to respond to,--

BREWER: Yeah, you tiptoed through that one good.

KENNETH WINSTON: --I'm trying to answer-- respond to your question. Well-- and I, and I respect your, your question. Here-- here's the way I look at it. And, and, and I'm not trying to be at all flippant about all of this. I mean, I'm trying to respond with all, all sincerity to your question. Yes, there are subsidies in the form of production tax credits which the developers can take advantage of. But the way that I look at it is, I live in a state with 1.9 million people in it. There's a lot of states that pay a lot more in income taxes to the federal government than Nebraska does. So to me it seems like a good way for the state of Nebraska to take advantage of the people in California and New York who are paying income taxes. And I'm not-- I'm-- so I'm--

BREWER: It's [INAUDIBLE].

KENNETH WINSTON: So, so-- well, I mean-- and, and if the people in California want to help keep the electric rates, rates low here in Lincoln, Nebraska, I'm all for that, all for that.

BREWER: OK. All right. Thank you. I mean, I think--

KENNETH WINSTON: And, and as I said, I meant that with all respect.

BREWER: --you explained it exactly-- I, I mean, I, I understand it a little better with that explanation, but there might be a little gray area we'll work through eventually.

KENNETH WINSTON: And I'd, and I'd be glad to visit with you outside of this hearing.

BREWER: All right. Yes, sir.

KOLOWSKI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ken, have you seen any charts where you get actual breakdowns of the number of subsidies oil gets compared to wind, compared to solar, compared to everything else? I don't, I

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee March 15, 2019

don't come across those kind of things very easily, and I'd like to know what your opinion was with that.

KENNETH WINSTON: Yes indeed, there are, there are subsidies for all fuel sources including fossil fuels. I don't have a, a site for it that I can provide you at-- off the top of my head but I'm, I'm sure I could get you that information if you'd like, Senator Kolowski.

KOLOWSKI: I would appreciate that. And we're, we're always talking about where these other sources might have benefited like wind and how much of a write-off they might have over X number of years. But no one ever comes back and talks about the oil sources or anything else of the fuels that we've been using for decades. And I'd like to see a better balance of information.

KENNETH WINSTON: Sure.

KOLOWSKI: So, so we get an honest appraisal of that.

KENNETH WINSTON: I, I will do some research there. I may ask Mr. Lombardi to help me in that regard--

KOLOWSKI: Appreciate that.

KENNETH WINSTON: -- because he has, he has lots of resources in that area but I'd be glad to do that.

KOLOWSKI: Thank you.

KENNETH WINSTON: There's one question that I also wanted to address. There was a question about other forms of fossil or carbon neutral--

BREWER: Carbon free, carbon neutral.

KENNETH WINSTON: --carbon free. And if there's somebody from NPPD here they can probably address this better than I can but they're investing in a project that uses hydrogen to generate electricity and that would also be a carbon-free energy source.

BREWER: OK.

KENNETH WINSTON: And I'm, and I'm not a spokesperson for NPPD.

BREWER: That's OK. They're here and I'll be glad to ask that question.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee March 15, 2019

KENNETH WINSTON: I'm sure Shirley can tell you more about it.

BREWER: All right. Any other questions? Seeing none, thank you, sir.

KENNETH WINSTON: Thank you, Senator.

BREWER: OK. Additional proponents? All right, seeing none, we'll go to our opponents. Come on up. Welcome to the Government Committee.

DOUG CARLSON: Good afternoon, Chairman. Thank you. Good afternoon, Chairman Brewer and members of the committee. My name is Doug Carlson, D-o-u-g C-a-r-l-s-o-n. And I'm the deputy director for Department of Administrative Services. And I'm here today in opposition of LB704 for Director Jason Jackson who was unable to attend due to a prior commitment. LB704 requires DAS to use \$50,000 in appropriation to analyze and compile the results of the Nebraska Benchmarking and Beyond Initiative to assess utilization of resources including in-state renewable energy generation of electricity for state-owned buildings, reduction of energy consumption and other measures to increase energy efficiency in state-owned buildings. The bill additionally requires DAS to prepare a request for proposals and to enter into contracts to purchase renewable energy for state-owned buildings at the rate of 50 percent for total energy by 2022, 60 percent by 2025, 70 percent by 2028, and 80 percent by 2031. DAS would also be required to analyze available data and studies to prepare a compilation that includes an examination of current energy usage, expenditures and sources for all state-owned buildings, analysis of opportunities for cost savings through increased utilization of renewable energy and conservation, co-location of renewable energy generation facilities, and barriers to increased utilization as well as other relevant information. The cost of utilities is a large component when DAS State Building Division calculates biennial rate--rental rates and DAS State Building Division is focused on opportunities to reduce our energy consumption. We are partnering with the 309 Task Force and initiating projects such as LED lighting upgrading, HVAC efficiency improvements, and window and door replacements. DAS State Building Division is currently purchasing the maximum amount of renewable energy available through our Western Area Power Administration contracts. Additionally, it is unknown if renewable energy sources would even be available for purchase at these percentage requirements through the WAPA or any other energy providers. Utility contracts for electricity generated by using renewable energy could be more expensive than current cost. This could result in the need to increase rental rates at the facilities managed

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee March 15, 2019

by our agency including state office buildings and 24/7 facilities. Other state agencies that own buildings include Education, Labor, Game and Parks, Corrections, and Department of Transportation would also have to meet these same requirements and enter into contracts to purchase electricity generated using renewable energy. Like DAS, any increases in utility costs would require additional general funds for most agencies. Others might need to increase fees and/or other income generating charges to meet the increased cost. Finally, LB704 requires the Department of Administrative Services Transportation Services Bureau to conduct a study to determine cost-effective methods for investing in electric vehicles for use by the state to be funded by the Volkswagen Settlement Cash Fund if created. The committee should have received a letter from the Department of Environmental Quality explaining that one of the conditions of the trust is that the state agreed to disburse trust funds for tangible actions that result in a direct reduction of nitrous oxide emissions statewide. Costs associated with studies are not listed as an eligible expense for reimbursement from Volkswagen mitigation trust funds. As a result, the source of the funds contemplated in this provision of LB704 will not be available to pay for this study activity. Thank you for time. I'd now be happy to answer any questions.

BREWER: All right. Thank you, Doug. OK. Questions? Yes, sir.

KOLOWSKI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Carlson, if your department doesn't do this, who does it in our, in our state?

DOUG CARLSON: Senator, I would say to you that we're already doing this.

KOLOWSKI: You're already doing this?

DOUG CARLSON: We're already being as, as efficient with energy as possible. We have Task Force 309 as well as State Building Division constantly looking at ways to conserve energy on behalf of the 1.5--1.9 million Nebraskans.

KOLOWSKI: OK, and that would be accumulated in your yearly reports--

DOUG CARLSON: Yes, sir.

KOLOWSKI: --that are finished by the-- by your department-- furnished by your department?

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee March 15, 2019

DOUG CARLSON: Are you asking if the energy efficiency savings are being included in that?

KOLOWSKI: Well, the things in here that are being asked for in the bill, is that not available as far as a duplication of what you're doing then? You're telling me it's already being done.

DOUG CARLSON: I am telling you that we are already being as energy efficient as possible.

KOLOWSKI: That's two different questions. I'm asking are you doing the things that are being asked in this bill compared to what you're doing within your own service area?

DOUG CARLSON: Well, sir, I would say that absolutely we're doing everything in the bill. That's why we're in opposition to the bill.

KOLOWSKI: OK. Thank you.

BREWER: Doug, real quick. When we're talking about the VW mitigation trust fund, what exactly is that? I understand that VW use less than accurate numbers and they were in a lawsuit, they were fined a considerable amount, that money has been put into a trust. But what are the specific rules on how that money can be used?

DOUG CARLSON: And so I, I honestly couldn't, couldn't tell you that, Senator. You know, you'll have to grant me a little grace. I've only been in this job a couple months and I haven't looked at the specifics of the VW mitigation bill. I'd actually like to address Senator Kolowski's-- you know, previous question. You know, to say that we're doing everything-- you know, including that Volkswagen mitigation-- you know, obviously we're, we're not going to be able to do that. But you know, the, the intent of the bill, I think we all agree, is to make sure that Nebraska-- the state of Nebraska is being as energy efficient as possible and to, to the intent of the bill, absolutely. Are we doing everything specifically? I wouldn't be able to answer that question for, for certain, Senator. But I can tell you we are absolutely meeting the intent of the bill.

BREWER: And, and again, I'm playing the middleman here, but I think part of it was he was looking at the 50 percent by '22 and, and up to 80 percent by 2031. I guess what you're saying is you're, you're being as efficient as you can with the resources available but you're probably not gonna track on the numbers here in the bill just because

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee March 15, 2019

I would assume those numbers are pretty high to meet without having to make some pretty sizable changes in the way you do business.

DOUG CARLSON: Yeah. And again, I apologize for not clarifying that, Senator. Yeah, we're not certain that that would even be an available option to us at, at those percentages.

BREWER: OK. Well-- and, and when Senator McCollister gets a chance to close, I'll have some other questions that kind of hopefully shape that so we better understand it. Any other questions? Yes, Senator Hilgers.

HILGERS: Thank you, Chairman Brewer. Thank you for your testimony. On the energy efficiency, Mr. Lombardi had some interesting information on some of the cost savings that might be available. Do you have a projection on what DAS's current efforts might save?

DOUG CARLSON: You know I, I don't but let me get that with my team and we'll get you an answer.

HILGERS: Do you have any ballpark at all you can give?

DOUG CARLSON: I don't. I apologize.

HILGERS: OK. I'd appreciate that. Thank you.

DOUG CARLSON: Yes, absolutely.

BREWER: OK. Additional questions? Yes, Senator Hunt.

HUNT: Thank you, Chairman Brewer. Thank you for being here today. In your testimony you say that you're doing projects like LED lighting upgrades, HVAC efficiency improvements, and window and door replacements. What other initiatives is the Department of Administrative Services taking in the future to improve energy efficiency?

DOUG CARLSON: Well, I wouldn't be able to speak to the specifics of that just from the perspective that you'll have to grant me a little grace, I've been in this position--

HUNT: Sure.

DOUG CARLSON: --just a few months.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee March 15, 2019

HUNT: Me, too.

DOUG CARLSON: But I'd be happy to, to give-- let me get with my team and we'll give you some specifics.

HUNT: OK. Do you have any idea how much renewable energy DAS is using now?

DOUG CARLSON: I wouldn't be able to speak to that either, but I'll get you an answer.

HUNT: Do you think it's zero?

DOUG CARLSON: I really wouldn't want to, want to speculate on that.

HUNT: OK.

DOUG CARLSON: But I can tell you that we are using the maximum. So you know, what exactly, I, I just wouldn't be able to tell you, Senator.

HUNT: If this bill were to pass and you would have to be in compliance with the bill, what would your plan be to-- well, what would your plan be to, to find energy providers that can make you in compliance with this bill?

DOUG CARLSON: We would work with the team identified in the legislative bill to, to figure that out.

HUNT: OK. Good. Thank you.

BREWER: Well, one of the questions I'll look forward to asking the different power representatives that come up here, is how we divide up those electrons to figure out which ones are renewable and which ones aren't. So that'll be-- yes, Senator Hunt.

HUNT: Thank you, Chairman Brewer. Did you get a copy of the amendment that was distributed to us?

DOUG CARLSON: I do not have a copy of that.

HUNT: OK. It's my understanding that the amendment strikes the part that relies on funding from the VW settlement, whatever. So I just wanted that to be clarified as well.

BREWER: Yeah, and just so you understand. I only got it an hour before we started here so you probably weren't up the food chain far enough

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee March 15, 2019

to get it in time. Sorry. OK. Any other questions? Seeing none, thank you for your testimony.

DOUG CARLSON: Thank you.

BREWER: OK. Next presenter in opposition. All right. The part we're looking forward to, the neutral testimony. Come on up.

KEVIN WAILES: Good afternoon, Chairman Brewer, members of the committee.

BREWER: Welcome.

KEVIN WAILES: My name's Kevin Wailes, K-e-v-i-n W-a-i-l-e-s. I'm the CEO of Lincoln Electric System and I'm, I'm here testifying in a neutral position on LB704 on behalf of the Nebraska Power Association. The Nebraska Power Association represents all of Nebraska's consumer-owned utility systems, including munci-- municipalities, public power districts, rural public power districts, public power and irrigation districts, joint action agencies, and rural electric cooperatives. I think I'm probably lower on the food chain than Mr. Carlson. I haven't seen the amendment either so. Although I'm testifying in a neutral position with respect to LB704, we do support the general intent of LB704, but we really think the bill is unnecessary. In part because of what Mr. Carlson said, but we also want to put in perspective basically that the existing resource portfolios of the utilities in the state are moving toward that same goal. And on top of that there are a number of other programs, many of which were involved as LES with in fact the state is one of our largest customers. I think it's safe to say that the basically the predominant power suppliers in the state and that would be LES, NPPD, and OPPD have made several or an awful lot of commitment to renewable resources as well as sustainability. Specifically for LES, if you look at the past three years, we've actually produced in excess of 45 percent each year of our energy from the equivalent of our retail energy from renewable resources. With respect to NPPD, they basically report that right now they're producing about 65 percent of their energy from carbon-free resources. Theirs is phrased a little differently because as you know they have a nuclear unit that's a large portion of their portfolio. And the Omaha Public Power District is representing that they-- and by the end of this year there'll be at about 40 percent equivalent of their retail energy coming from renewable resources. So when you put those together and look at we are supplying large portion of the state with respect to that. For LES,

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee March 15, 2019

the state is our largest customer when you couple it with the university. That makes a significant impact already. How-- I can't speak for the detailed programs associated with all the utilities in the state, but I would like to talk about really a few of those that I think are relevant with respect to what LES does. Specifically, we have an entity called the District Energy Corporation which actually provides thermal resources for this building, the 1526 building, the State Office Building, and those facilities have been in place for many years. And on top of that, we're actually doing a very, very interesting project with the State Penitentiary now. We're, we're building a complete thermal energy facility to serve the State Penitentiary so that they can take the existing coal resources out of service. And that's scheduled to be in operation, I believe, in June of this year. And it's under construction now, if you drive by there. We also have a relationship that's another inner local agency with the university that's called Newcorp that's existed since the, I think, early 1990s. And it is a program between LES and the university basically to look for energy efficiency projects that support the university. In many cases, it actually has served as a vehicle for the university to do a lot of efficiency upgrades like improved chillers and those types of things that they would not otherwise be able to get through the appro-- standard appropriation process. And we can turn that basically and let them pay that back through their energy bill. On top of that, one of the really neat projects that's happened in the last few years is a thermal energy storage project. One on east campus, one on city campus. Those projects alone are saving the university now about a million dollars a year in utility fees. And the unique thing about that, if you think about having public power in the state, which we're all very proud of, is it's public power that's helping do that and that million dollars a year the university saves it's actually revenue that LES does not receive. So there's lots of different projects going on like that with respect to the Western Area Power Administration, we deliver Western Area Power Administration to the university for example. Almost 45 percent of the energy that the university uses as our largest customer is coming from the Western Area Power Administration that are renewable energy already. You know, the State Capitol is obviously doing some major projects right now with respect to the HVAC project they're doing which will be ground source heat pumps. A very efficient resource as well. Even though we believe the central facilities that we're using now to serve the Capitol also provide a lot of opportunity for that as well. We're talking to the university about different ways-- that if they want additional renewables that we might do that through some kind of

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee March 15, 2019

purchase, purchase arrangement through LES. Because one of the concerns we've got about the bill quite candidly is, we're not sure part of it is legal. Because the state really can't go buy directly from other power producers, they have to go through their utilities. And finally, I-- although I think the amendment, which I haven't seen did impact this a little bit. I think that you ought to consider sustainable resources in zero-- or carbon-free resources. The sustainability includes not only energy efficiency but also demands-- demand-side reduction types of opportunities which are also efficiency in addition to renewals. So with that, I'll conclude.

BREWER: All right. Thank you for your testimony. And that, that was a question I was gonna ask and let's kind of put this I guess in a, in a way where it's easy to understand. When you're pushing electricity through the lines, it's basically a river and you have streams that feed into it but there's no way for you to be able to say have Hank Bounds call you up and say, listen, I only want the renewable stuff don't give me that other junk.

KEVIN WAILES: We've tried to cover them, we can't.

BREWER: OK. Well, so I thought. OK. Questions? Senator Hunt.

HUNT: Thank you, Chairman Brewer. Thank you for coming to testify today. So you said, although you're testifying in the neutral capacity, is it your position that the bill is unnecessary because energy companies are already working toward this?

KEVIN WAILES: I believe between that and what we're doing with our large customers which are the state in offering programs and assistance to do that. In addition to our concerns, of course, about the legalities of the bill.

HUNT: OK. Are, are energy companies on track to be able to provide 50 percent renewable energy by 2022?

KEVIN WAILES: Well, I think that's-- you know, I can't speak for all the other utilities. We are currently in the process where what we do is we don't set a finite goal, we look for opportunity to make sure that we can balance not only the environmental components but the cost components and the reliability components of those resources. So we didn't have a target-- you know, 5 years ago to be where we are but we were only probably about 15 percent renewable resources and we're 45

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee March 15, 2019

percent now. I would anticipate that the state will continue to climb in basically it's, it's carbon- free resources.

HUNT: Do you set targets--

KEVIN WAILES: We, we do not. Some do.

HUNT: --for percentages of renewable energy? OK. OK. Thank you. You don't set targets?

KEVIN WAILES: We do not.

HUNT: OK.

BREWER: All right. Any additional questions? Just a quick comment for you.

KEVIN WAILES: Yes, sir.

BREWER: If we have questions, if we go to Shirley-- she's been great. Shelley's been great. You, you have folks that respond and react. And we thank you for that.

KEVIN WAILES: Thank you for your time.

BREWER: All right. Have a good day. Thank you. All right. Any additional in the neutral capacity? All right. Seeing none, Senator McCollister, come on up. Welcome back.

McCOLLISTER: Thank you, Chairman, members of the committee. I would like to respond to some of the issues that, that were, were raised particularly by the Department of Administrative Services. I think Senator Hunt indicated that there was an amendment that eliminated the Volkswagen settlement fund as a source of funds. For your information the reduction of, of carbon emissions was the, the focus of that settlement. So buying electric cars or more efficient diesel engines would be an allowable use of that money. But not, not, not for funding our program. I should mention that the testimony from the Department was the most favorable opposition testimony that I've ever heard and I was grateful for it. But it makes you wonder, the Department of Administrative Services-- you know, what is their, their primary function is to go out and obtain bids and get the cheapest sources that they can find, highest quality sources they can find so it should be one of their core competencies is, is to do exactly what we're, we're asking them to do. If this bill were to move forward, I would

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee March 15, 2019

like to go to the Department of General Services and Administrative Services and, and work with them on, on something they could actually support. You know, working with the executive branch and the legislative branch is, is a good goal. And I, I would hope that we could, we could do that in this case. A couple other points. We talked about-- you know, saving a certain amount of energy for every individual building and that's not exactly what the bill calls for. This is an aggregate kind of thing and we would, we would attempt to do that not for every shed that Game and Parks has or anything else but simply aggregate the various buildings under state control and, and save energy in, in that way. Finally, the difficulty of, of requiring bids for renewable energy. Well, Google, Facebook, and Yahoo have done it. Yes, I'm sure there's times that, that they can't supply renewable energy and the [INAUDIBLE] fired resources of OPPD and NPPD. They're, they're utilized for that purpose and you can't distinguish between those, those electrons. I understand that's, that's true. So with that, I would be happy to answer any additional questions.

BREWER: All right. Thank you. Questions? All right. I got, I got one for you here. And I understand that the amendment coming as late as it was, it was kind of hard to really grasp exactly the differences.

McCOLLISTER: I apologize.

BREWER: So that might be why some of the questions that you would normally wouldn't hear. But on the 4th page at the bottom there under (8) it says, "Any contracts entered into under this section shall not be subject to the Nebraska Consultants' Competitive Negotiation Act" and then it breaks out the sections. Why, why would that be in there if we're trying to find the cheapest way of providing energy?

McCOLLISTER: Well, if this bill were just to have the prospect of moving forward we could certainly review that provision, Mr. Chairman.

BREWER: OK. I just-- I thought maybe there was something that I hadn't realized through the, the amendment. OK. Any other questions? All right. Seeing none, thank you.

McCOLLISTER: Thank you.

BREWER: OK. That-- after I read in some letters here that I probably misplaced somewhere in my pile. There we go. LB704, we have nine letters is proponents; one as a-- two as opponent; none in the neutral of letters. With that said, we will transition to LB709, Senator

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee March 15, 2019

Cavanaugh. Welcome to the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee on a Friday afternoon.

CAVANAUGH: Thank you very much, Chairman Brewer and members of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. My name is Machaela Cavanaugh, M-a-c-h-a-e-l-a C-a-v-a-n-a-u-g-h, and I represent District 6, west central Omaha here in the Nebraska Legislature. And this is my last bill to introduce in my first year in the Legislature. And my first time in front of Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee. So thank you for allowing me to be here today. I am here to introduce LB709 which would create a nursing station within the Capitol Building. So this started on day one of orientation when I showed up with Barrett, who you all have become quite familiar with, and I didn't know how things were gonna go. He was only four months old at that point in time so I brought him with me, didn't know how long it was gonna be, when I was gonna back to Omaha, etcetera. But after getting a feel for day one of orientation, I realized that OK, tomorrow I don't think I need to bring the baby. First of all, it's hard to pay attention with a baby. I'm gonna pump tomorrow. So I asked Sally from the Clerk's Office, so what do nursing moms do in this building? And that's when I started getting the deer in the headlights look from all of the ladies that they kind of just do whatever, it's makeshift, we try and make do. You certainly-- we'd make accommodations for you and we'll have you in the doctor's room in the back, which is what I ultimately ended up doing. But that kind of sent me on the journey of looking into what the accommodations are in this building for nursing mothers, both that work in the building and that visit the building. I very strongly believe that this is the people's building and that the building should reflect that. And so when we have people coming to testify here for various issues that are nursing mothers or people who are working here that are nursing mothers that we should have a space for them to do that, that is hygienic and accessible. Currently, there is a stall-- that in my conversations with Bob Ripley from the Capitol Commission, was never intended to be a nursing stall. It was intended to be a family stall where you would take children when they were here to just have a space and it just turned out that women started using it as a pumping stall because there was nowhere else to go. So that started that conversation about, well, that's in a public restroom and that's not hygienic. I have been working with Senator Hilgers, Senator Vargas, Bob Ripley, Larry Bare, and the Governor's Chief of Staff, whose name I cannot recall right now. And I am hopeful that we will find a solution to this problem that meets the needs of the people in this building, the women in

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee March 15, 2019

this-- that come to this building and is-- maintains the integrity of the Capitol. But with that, I would encourage you to listen to some of the testifiers today and consider voting this out of committee so that we can keep moving this forward. I have also commissioned an artist who is from here in Nebraska but lives in New York to do a version of the Sower that is the-- a, a woman nursing which I hope to have hanging in our future mother's room. And I have commissioned copies for our Governor who has been very supportive of my nursing in the Legislature. So with that, I will take any questions that the committee has.

BREWER: All right. Thank you, Senator Cavanaugh. OK. I guess a quick first question. So obviously anything that happens in the building, Bob is kind of is the warlord of, of the Capitol. He's tuned in and read in and he's, he's, he's--

CAVANAUGH: We've sat down and talked about it and we've talked through what the water needs are. So the Capitol did order-- the Capitol Commission did order a nursing-- they-- Senator Hilgers and I have-- they've been calling it a pod. It's a lactation station. And they have ordered that and installed it in the copier room. It does not have water which is problematic if you're here all day and you need to clean your, your things. It's a great solution for those that are visiting just like in public arenas if you're visiting and you just need to go in there once. It's not a great solution for staff that are here all day. And I've discussed this with Bob Ripley and we've talked about the possibility and he's looking into it of putting a wall up in one of the larger bathrooms so that it would be a separate suite and using-- the issue is water.

BREWER: Yeah, I could see that.

CAVANAUGH: So if we can, if we can get there, which I hope we can.

BREWER: And, and by working through, either passing this bill onto the floor we're not stepping on any toes with the-- let's see, I guess-- this is the Capitol Commission or who, who has oversight of the actual building and how it changes or if it changes?

CAVANAUGH: The Capital Commission has the oversight over that.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee March 15, 2019

BREWER: In these conversations with Bob, there was no concern that we were gonna-- I guess, put them in a place that they, they didn't have a solution or they didn't agree with us?

CAVANAUGH: At this point, they, they agree with doing it and they agree with finding a solution.

BREWER: Good attitude.

CAVANAUGH: And I started this before those conversations had happened and I just want to keep that conversation moving forward.

BREWER: And you're saying the Exec Chair is working with you--

CAVANAUGH: Yes.

BREWER: --and cooperating, too.

CAVANAUGH: Yes.

BREWER: That's good to hear.

CAVANAUGH: Yes.

BREWER: All right. Questions? Senator Hunt.

HUNT: Thank you, Chairman Brewer. Why don't we already have a lactation room in the Capitol under the Fair Labor Standards Act?

CAVANAUGH: So the Capitol is a historic building.

HUNT: Are they exempt from that?

CAVANAUGH: They are exempt.

HUNT: OK.

CAVANAUGH: And my understanding is that it was viewed that every one of us is our own agency. And so it is up to us to make accommodations for our staff.

HUNT: That's weird.

CAVANAUGH: Yes.

HUNT: That gut check doesn't work for me. But that's crazy.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee March 15, 2019

CAVANAUGH: Well, considering you and I are on the same floor, the accommodations are that I still have to wash my stuff in a public restroom.

HUNT: Um-hum.

CAVANAUGH: Which I dropped one of the pumping things earlier this week and one of your staff maybe heard an explicative come out of my mouth when it rolled under a dirty toilet. So--

HUNT: Well, also that sink-- like I don't know how you could get all that equipment under there. Like not all sinks are created equal for this kind of thing. I get it.

CAVANAUGH: Yes, I might have, I might have Mr. Ripley come with me some day and I'll show him how I wash my stuff.

HUNT: What it's like, you should. I have a question about the bill wording on, on lines 8-- on line 8 where it says the public. Does the public include employees? Because other versions of this type of bill I've seen it's free from intrusion from public and other employees or coworkers. I think-- I, I wondered if there was something technical about using the word coworkers in the Capitol if-- especially if we're all considered our own agency? Would that include those people?

CAVANAUGH: Well, the own agency was just how Mr. Ripley described it to me--

HUNT: OK.

CAVANAUGH: --last week. The public, my intent would be anyone. It's private as you're using it.

HUNT: Yeah. OK.

CAVANAUGH: It will be locked and secured when you're in there.

HUNT: So it sounds like the most realistic option that is on the forefront of discussion now is in an existing bathroom and another wall would be created or something.

CAVANAUGH: An actual wall like if-- the only place that I can think of that I've been to, like UNMC. They do have the nursing-- the lactation stations. But they also have like nursing rooms within the restroom that are a suite. Or if you've ever been to Joslyn Museum, there's a

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee March 15, 2019

mother's room. That one is actually right next to the restroom, but it would be like that. Because it has to have water in it and if it has water it has to have a drain.

HUNT: Um-hum.

CAVANAUGH: So the restroom is really the easiest, most cost effective way to do that. But obviously you don't want to have it in a restroom. So creating a suite with private-- a private sink and a-- no toilet is the-- what I think will be the best solution for the building.

HUNT: I also. I, I love this picture. I didn't know you had this made. And I wanted to share with the committee and with you that my daughter drew a picture of me at the Capitol that's in my office, and on the top of the Capitol is a sower with a little skirt on. And I said to her-- I was like, oh, you drew the Sower as a woman and she goes, it is. And I was like, most people-- the Sower is intended to be a man, and she was like, I always thought it was a girl. And I just thought that was cute. So thank you for bringing this bill.

CAVANAUGH: There is a female sower. She is the mascot of Scripps College in California. And that fun fact is courtesy of Mr. Ripley.

HUNT: Thank you.

BREWER: So just out of curiosity since we got an entire quarter of the Capitol that's all diced up under construction, wouldn't that be the right time and place to actually make one that's custom made?

CAVANAUGH: I love that idea, Senator Brewer. Let's do it.

BREWER: Bob will hate me, but oh well. Senator Blood.

BLOOD: Thank you, Chairman Brewer. How are you today, Senator Cavanaugh?

CAVANAUGH: I'm great.

BLOOD: Good, because I have a lot of questions.

CAVANAUGH: I got to sleep more than 45 minutes last night. So super excited.

BLOOD: Oh, then that baby is not doing its job. So you talked a little bit about the Fair Labor Standards Act, but I thought that under the

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee March 15, 2019

enterprise coverage portion of it, regardless of whether it was historical building or not, that government agencies had to comply.

CAVANAUGH: Well, if we are viewed as our own agency as individuals, then the size of our office staff would not qualify.

BLOOD: I'd say that's not [INAUDIBLE], but I'm not [INAUDIBLE]. So--

CAVANAUGH: I'm not saying that I agree with it. You know what we should do is pass a law about that.

BLOOD: But also there's the Break Time for Nursing Mothers law, 2010. This reminds me of yesterday. We keep passing laws at the federal level that mean very little because we don't implement them. Employers are required to provide a clean private place dedicated to breastfeeding employees. Is that correct?

CAVANAUGH: Yes.

BLOOD: OK. So one of the things you talked about that was important was privacy, water, but I didn't hear you say electricity.

CAVANAUGH: Oh, I'm sorry. Yes, electricity.

BLOOD: OK.

CAVANAUGH: I'm sorry. Yes, electricity is essential.

BLOOD: I just want to make sure I wasn't missing something. So electricity is important because not everybody has got a battery operated--

CAVANAUGH: Right.

BLOOD: --or a hand pump or--

CAVANAUGH: Right. Yes.

BLOOD: OK. So I want to talk about some opinion questions since I know you're passionate about this bill.

CAVANAUGH: Yes.

BLOOD: How important is it that we start normalizing breastfeeding in our specific culture?

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee March 15, 2019

CAVANAUGH: I think it is extraordinarily important. I don't know how many members of the committee are on social media. But my staff, the very first week here when I had Barrett with me, and we were vote-- sitting doing votes and I didn't want to leave obviously to miss votes so I sat down at my chair and was nursing. And I was listening to floor debate and nursing and hitting my button and they took a picture and posted on social media and the response from that was overwhelming, the number of women that thanked me for doing something that I didn't think anything about.

BLOOD: Because it's normal.

CAVANAUGH: Yeah, to normalize it.

BLOOD: Right.

CAVANAUGH: And when we had our orientation and we had breakfast at the Governor's Mansion that first week, I had Barrett with me then and I had to nurse then and at the breakfast and it was fine. Nobody reacted to it whatsoever, but people kept asking me about it. And I was like, oh yeah, no, it's fine. They're like, well, how was the Governor? And I was like, he was great. Like he's a dad. He gets it, he's got kids. Like-- I think we have this mentality of it as a, as a, as a block. And if we stop thinking of it that way, and I think that the body for the most part at least from the comments that everyone in the body makes to me it's becoming normal here within the body. It's not, it's not something that is an issue. Nobody's taking issue with me having to feed my child or having to pump. Senator Hilgers has had to sit next to me many times during committee hearings when I have had to express milk. And because I'm doing a job differently than other people, I don't seek out a private space all the time though it is preferred but not always what I do.

BLOOD: And so while this bill helps to normalize it, I still, I still have concerns because I hear about we're still gonna use the restroom and maybe make a private suite. And so I, I really, I really want to dig into a little bit and I'm not gonna ask a whole lot of questions but I want to get some stuff on the record. So this bill is-- it's the goal is to normalize it here in the Capitol, be it for a visitor or be it for a staff person. So is it normal when we ask a gentleman to take his sandwich into the bathroom and eat it? Is that normal?

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee March 15, 2019

CAVANAUGH: I guess, I would say to ask one of the gentlemen if that's normal. If you asked me to take a sandwich in the bathroom and eat it--

BLOOD: OK, I'm asking you, would that be normal? Would you enjoy having your lunch in the bathroom?

CAVANAUGH: I would think that you were very odd if you had made that request of me.

BLOOD: Would it be something that you think you would enjoy--

CAVANAUGH: No.

BLOOD: --and not normal?

CAVANAUGH: No.

BLOOD: OK. I'm trying to make a point.

CAVANAUGH: No, I know. No, I would not think that-- I would not enjoy it.

BLOOD: OK. If you were asked to eat your sandwich in the Rotunda area with a blanket over your head. Would that be normal?

CAVANAUGH: I think that that would create a pretty big barrier to me enjoying that sandwich.

BLOOD: OK, so--

CAVANAUGH: Not normal.

BLOOD: It would be probably an educated assumption that asking our babies to do that it's probably not normal.

CAVANAUGH: No.

BLOOD: OK. So it's important that we don't ban women into the abyss for doing something that is normal and nurturing the future of Nebraska, future-- the, the future of Nebraska, right?

CAVANAUGH: Right.

BLOOD: You're nurturing them. You're feeding them. So did you do any research as to what countries do that compete with us as far as

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee March 15, 2019

maternity leave? Because I noticed that we were the only country in the developed world that doesn't mandate paid leave for mothers and I think that creates specific hurdles for working moms, especially moms that are public servants. Did you come up with any statistics or any information on that?

CAVANAUGH: Well first of all, next week we all can vote to do something about that here in Nebraska with my priority bill LB311--

BLOOD: I did not know that but I'm glad I gave you a good lead-in on that.

CAVANAUGH: --which is Senator Crawford's bill for paid family and medical leave. My husband did his master's degree in the UK. And when we were living there, I really regret that we didn't have all of our children there because I was working for the university and it-- you would receive-- it's-- you can have up to a year of leave. Six months of it is fully paid in the UK. And then after that it is graduated down in a percentage of your pay for the remainder of the, the six months if you were to choose to do that.

BLOOD: Why do you think that is? Why do you think that other countries value that time?

CAVANAUGH: Well, I think that every parent, every family, and every mother should do what's, what's best for them especially every mother should do what's best for them when it comes to feeding your baby and breastfeeding is not for everyone.

BLOOD: Right.

CAVANAUGH: It's hard, It's painful. It's not as intuitive as you would think it would be. Some women's milk doesn't come in. Some babies don't latch, their tongue tied. And which I thought was just a saying, it's actually a thing. There-- there's postpartum depression. There's a lot of things that factor into just that side of it or you just don't want to do it because you lose a lot of personal individual freedom when you decide to nurse. So that said, if you are going to nurse it is very hard to nurse a brand new baby and work full-time--

BLOOD: Right.

CAVANAUGH: --with a brand new baby. So not having 12 weeks to, to figure that out is extraordinarily challenging and even 12 weeks is not really enough time to figure that out. A lot of women have to go

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee March 15, 2019

back to work way before 12 weeks, 6 weeks or less. And those here who have had-- who have nursed children or who have spouses who have nursed children, and no, I'm not alone in the baby, the baby world right now. Those first six weeks are really, really difficult. And it can take, it can take six weeks before you really-- before it stops even hurting to nurse. And for me all three times that was the case. After six weeks, it didn't hurt as much. Now Barrett has four teeth and it hurts like unbelievable.

BLOOD: But, but we know that it may not-- breastfeeding may not be for all the mothers, but definitely for all the babies as far as a positive thing.

CAVANAUGH: It's for-- it's, it's definitely positive for them. But even if you're not breastfeeding having that time for both parents to bond with the baby it's, it's so important. And I think we overlook the role of, of dads and the nonbirthing parents. It's really important for parents to have time to get to know their little one and to get to know their cries and their, for lack of a better word, idiosyncrasies. Babies have personalities, and like who they are when they're born is kind of who they are.

BLOOD: So and I appreciate you taking time to kind of walk everybody through that. I, I just there's so much more to this bill than just providing a room to nurse your child. And I appreciate the fact that you're putting your foot in the door a little bit further to help normalize something that is so important to Nebraska women. So thank you for this bill.

CAVANAUGH: Well, thank you.

BREWER: Senator Hilgers.

HILGERS: Mr. Chairman, very briefly. Thank you for bringing the bill, Senator Cavanaugh. Appreciate all the work you've put into this and have enjoyed collaborating with you on it. The one question I have and then put something on the record if I might would be, have you had a chance to go to the lactation station at all that was installed this morning?

CAVANAUGH: I did right before coming in here.

HILGERS: And the initial observations [INAUDIBLE]?

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee March 15, 2019

CAVANAUGH: It's covered in cardboard.

HILGERS: Oh, it's not operational yet or is that is how it is supposed to work?

CAVANAUGH: I guess not, but it is in the copy room.

BLOOD: Maybe the cardboard is actually the [INAUDIBLE].

CAVANAUGH: So the copiers are still there.

HILGERS: Let's be-- it isn't-- it is not like a big cardboard box. Right?

CAVANAUGH: It looks like it is right now because they have cardboard on the front of it. But I went around the corner and it looks like a spaceship.

HILGERS: OK.

CAVANAUGH: I'm sure it's very lovely inside.

HILGERS: Well, I appreciate, I appreciate that. And I will say--

CAVANAUGH: We can, we can do a field trip.

HILGERS: I'll go with you.

CAVANAUGH: OK.

HILGERS: I think we have a record now. I think we have seven senators now have school-age kids which I think is a record. And, and four I think, by my count, who have babies.

CAVANAUGH: Yeah.

HILGERS: You, myself, Senator Vargas and Senator Wayne I know.

CAVANAUGH: Yep.

HILGERS: You're the only nursing mother currently serving the Legislature so--

CAVANAUGH: And I've got the oldest of the babies.

HILGERS: Do you?

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee March 15, 2019

CAVANAUGH: Yeah, he's eight months.

HILGERS: Oh, you do. Yeah, little Mike is six months.

CAVANAUGH: Yeah.

HILGERS: So I appreciate you pushing it. Just for the record though, Mr. Chairman, the Exec Board could--does not control the entire Capitol. We just have some authority over the legislative piece of the Capitol and so that is why I think this bill was initially referred to Government versus the Executive Board. But I've been very pleased to work with Senator Cavanaugh on this and hopefully we'll get a resolution. Thank you.

CAVANAUGH: Thank you. I, I think that Senator Brewer would have really missed out if this hadn't come to this committee.

BREWER: I am somewhat embarrassed to tell you that I was making copies this morning and went in there and sat there thinking that it was a driver training machine, I didn't realize that's what it was.
[LAUGHTER] So there you go.

CAVANAUGH: OK.

BREWER: Anyway. All right. Additional questions? Seeing none, thank you. You'll stick around for close?

CAVANAUGH: I will, yes.

BREWER: All right. Opponents, come on up. Proponents, yeah. You know what I meant. [LAUGHTER] Welcome to the Government Committee.

COURTNEY LYONS: Thank you. Good afternoon, Chairman Brewer and members of the committee. My name is Courtney Lyons, C-o-u-r-t-n-e-y L-y-o-n-s. I'm here in support of Senator Cavanaugh's LB709. I currently work for Senator Hansen and I want to thank him for allowing me to take personal time to testify on this bill that is near and dear to my heart. I have two daughters, the youngest who was born last May. And I was surprised when at that time that there is not a designated space to go to pump or breastfeed when I returned to work. The last few weeks, I walked around with my colleagues who have pumped in the last couple of years and asked how they made it work. They said that they were all able to patch together a pump schedule by finding a coworker's or their boss's office to use or sometimes use the doctor of the day room, as Senator Cavanaugh said, if we weren't in session

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee March 15, 2019

or if their boss was unable to vacate their office for the 3 times a day for about 20 minutes that most women need to pump. I previously worked at a nonprofit so I know several other women who have it even worse: lobbyists, advocates, and volunteers who are forced to use their cars or the larger bathroom stall on the first floor that we've talked about. Put simply, we can do better than this. The State Office Building across the street has multiple rooms for this purpose and it's commonplace now to see these mother rooms in many public places. As we progress as a society to help moms feed their babies in this way, we're becoming an outlier and coming off as if we don't care about supporting moms as they return to work even though we do, as Senator Blood pointed out, expect them to quickly return to work. Could we continue to make do depending on the kindness and schedules of our coworkers? Probably, but this lack of a designated space sends a message to every mom with young kids whether they work here or are visiting that we're not welcome here and that those at the top don't care if we're able to feed our kids. Most of you all have not breastfed, but most of you are parents so I'll compare it to a situation that may be familiar to you. To me it's similar to being at a restaurant and inevitably your little one needs a new diaper, you gather up the diaper bag and the baby and get to the bathroom to find nowhere to change them. Oftentimes, not even a flat surface away from the floor. You end up quietly changing them in a booth or on a blanket on the floor but leaving with the sense that they're not very family friendly. Well here you have the power to make the Capitol more family friendly and support your staff as they try to return to work and care for young kids at the same time. I want to end by giving immense thanks to Senator Cavanaugh and her advocacy for working parents already in her short time here. And on there, I'd take any questions.

BREWER: All right. Thank you for your testimony. Questions? Senator Blood.

BLOOD: Thank you, Chairman Brewer. And thank you for testifying.

COURTNEY LYONS: Yes.

BLOOD: It's nice to see outside of your office. Out of curiosity, and I didn't hear you say this, how have you been handling it?

COURTNEY LYONS: So I was lucky because I ended up pumping at a time when the Capitol was not very busy so I used Senator Hansen's office. And that's been kind of the norm that I found is that people patch

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee March 15, 2019

together a schedule of borrowing spaces and finding somewhere to go and it's not the best.

BLOOD: So did you feel-- I mean, there's that giant bay window and you got a door that doesn't lock--

COURTNEY LYONS: Yeah, but--

BLOOD: --I mean, did you feel comfortable?

COURTNEY LYONS: Well, you can close the blinds. So I just made it work. Yeah.

BLOOD: OK. So-- but you've been to other environments where it was more accessible?

COURTNEY LYONS: Yeah. So a lot of you if you know your spouse's anywhere you go you're very happy to see a pump room. So my husband works at the university, and you see them, you're excited. I know a lot of Hy-Vee restaurants have family rooms that you can pump. So yeah.

BLOOD: OK. Thank you.

COURTNEY LYONS: Um-hum.

BREWER: Any additional questions? All right. Thank you for your testimony. Next proponent. Welcome to the Government Committee.

SCOUT RICHTERS: Thank you. My name is Scout Richters, that's S-c-o-u-t R-i-c-h-t-e-r-s. I am here on behalf of the ACLU of Nebraska. I would like to thank Senator Cavanaugh as well as all of the cosponsors of the bill for bringing this legislation. I'm circulating written testimony and will just briefly summarize it here. The ACLU of Nebraska supports this legislation because breastfeeding is a civil right, a gender equity concern, and a reproductive justice issue. Really work to ensure that Nebraska moms who choose to breastfeed are supported has been a top priority for the ACLU in addition to working with partners to strengthen legal protections for breastfeeding women at work and at school. In the recent legislative sessions, we have also published a report on the lactation supports available to Nebraska college and university students as well as develop Know Your Rights materials for breastfeeding moms which I've attached to the testimony. Additionally, the fact that Nebraska women face discrimination simply for breastfeeding tells us that there is

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee March 15, 2019

certainly more work to be done in this area. We do receive intakes from women who have concerns about being able to breastfeed, breastfeed on the job or out in public and this just shows that there's, there's room for more protections in this area. This particular bill ensures that all breastfeeding mothers in the Capitol have an appropriate space to be able to pump breast milk because mothers who do choose to breastfeed must have the ability to care for their families while simultaneously working or going to school and remaining active in their communities. So thank you. And I'm happy to try to answer any questions.

BREWER: All right, thank you for your testimony. Questions? All right. Thanks for coming in.

SCOUT RICHTERS: Thank you.

BREWER: OK. Any additional proponents? Any in opposition? Any in the neutral capacity? Come on up. Welcome to the Government Committee.

BOB RIPLEY: Thank you, Senator. I've been called many things, but resident warlord of the Capitol isn't one of them.

BREWER: Well, that might be a military term that was a little out of place but maybe appropriate.

BOB RIPLEY: Well, I leave it to each person to make that decision.

BREWER: OK. Fair enough.

BOB RIPLEY: Good afternoon, Chairman Brewer and members of the Government Committee. My name is Bob Ripley, R-i-p-l-e-y, and I have the privilege of serving as Capitol Administrator for the Office of the Nebraska Capitol Commission. I appear today in a neutral position on this bill to provide background information to the committee on the subject of installing a lactation station for public use in the State Capitol. The history of this service in the Capitol dates back at least five years if not more and it revolves around the requirements of the federal Fair Labor Standards Act working within this context and coordinating with the three branches of state government at that time. Prior to 2018, Capitol policy required each branch to provide lactation facilities for their respective employees as the Fair Labor Standards Act requires. However, about a year and a half ago our office began evaluating lactation facilities and specific locations within the Capitol for such a service for use by the public. The

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee March 15, 2019

documents I have distributed showed the prefabricated lactation pod, the manufacturer's term for the, for the facility, which was determined by our office to meet the requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act and to meet our facility requirements including accommodating Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility as well. As a result, such a lactation pod was purchased by our office for installation in Room 1421 located on the east side of the south central corridor of the Capitol's ground floor. The cost of this module is being borne by our office and our staff has recently installed this pod. We anticipate this facility to be completed for use by the end of April this year once a system of access has been confirmed for its use. It should be noted Room 1421 will be involved in phase two of our ongoing HVAC project which is scheduled to begin construction in January 2020. Since this pod is prefabricated and modular in assembly, it will be disassembled later this year and moved temporarily by our Commission staff into a recently completed phase one space across the hall from Room 1421 until phase two is complete. With phase two completion estimated to be in June of 2021, this pod will again be relocated back into a newly renovated Room 1421. This concludes my prepared testimony. If there are questions, I would attempt to answer them at this time.

BREWER: Thank you for your testimony. And Bob, just so I defend myself on this, this morning I get in early your guys were setting that up in there.

BOB RIPLEY: Yes.

BREWER: And I was trying to watch as I was making copies and then they left. Well, the Army has things like this when you go in and sit down and when you close the door it kicks on a movie like how to tear apart a machine gun. I didn't know, I just thought I'd check it out. As you can see it wasn't quite what it was for.

BOB RIPLEY: I stepped into something similar in my draft board physical.

BREWER: Senator Blood.

BLOOD: Thank you, Chairman Brewer. Is there electricity?

BOB RIPLEY: Pardon me?

BLOOD: Does it have access to electricity?

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee March 15, 2019

BOB RIPLEY: Yes.

BLOOD: Excellent. Thank you.

BREWER: Oh, sorry.

BOB RIPLEY: Actually, electricity and for data as well.

BLOOD: And, pardon?

BOB RIPLEY: Data.

BLOOD: And data?

BOB RIPLEY: Uh-huh.

BLOOD: Pertaining to breastfeeding?

BOB RIPLEY: It is has to do with, with access into the pod.

BLOOD: Aw. OK. I thought it was perhaps--

BOB RIPLEY: By the way of smartphones, is the, is the-- often the method used.

BLOOD: Pardon?

BOB RIPLEY: For access into the pod. The Bluetooth software program via the manufacturer's recommendation is the method used for access into the pod.

BLOOD: Aw, excellent. So it'll be only employees that will have that access or will people that are visiting the building will have the ability to download that app as well?

BOB RIPLEY: No, it's, it's-- this is meant-- this is really meant to be because the policy that was in place prior to 2018 is essentially still there, which is if you look closely at the Fair Labor Standards Act requirement, the policy we have in place prior to 2018 does in fact meet the Fair Labor Standards Act. We took it a step further to go into the public realm to provide this pod and the manner in which the manufacturer represents it and suggested use for access is smartphone with Bluetooth access to gain entry.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee March 15, 2019

BLOOD: So excellent. So you'll come upon the pod and it'll say download this app and you download the app and you'll have access to the pod? It gives you directions on the outside of it or on--

BOB RIPLEY: You know, that's a good question. That's one of the reasons we said the system won't really be up and running until the end of April because we need to get together with enterprises in the building for that purpose. The building is open five days a week during the regular work week hours from 8:00 to 5:00 roughly.

BLOOD: Right. And on the weekends.

BOB RIPLEY: And, and weekends as well. Now on weekends, we, we do not have the, the public action availability and so we will-- we need to talk with those enterprises of state government that will be here during the weekend hours. And so in truth, that involves our security office and, and one of our tour guides typically. And that's really the only scheduled state employee activity in the building on weekends or holidays for that matter.

BLOOD: And so is it your anticipation that the cleaning schedule will be the same as the women's restrooms or have you thought about that at all yet?

BOB RIPLEY: At this point, that's the plan. Currently, we have scheduled routine maintenance on and cleaning of all restrooms in the building twice a day, morning and afternoon.

BLOOD: And they won't leave the door open like they do the restrooms when they're cleaning it, right?

BOB RIPLEY: We, we have heard through discussions with the manufacturer, the last thing you want to do is leave the door open.

BLOOD: Right.

BOB RIPLEY: You can imagine what kind of alternate activities other than expressing breast milk would occur and would occur if the door were left open.

BLOOD: I, I would concur and that's not gonna be one of my questions thank goodness. Thank you.

BOB RIPLEY: Sure.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee March 15, 2019

BREWER: All I did was sit down in there, OK? That's all I did.
[LAUGHTER] Senator Hunt.

HUNT: Chairman Brewer, thank you. Thank you for providing this pod. I think that this is a good transitional solution for people who need the service but hopefully not the end solution. And it sounds like you're all continuing to work on finding a permanent place. Did I understand correctly or maybe you don't know, do you have to have a smartphone to access this pod?

BOB RIPLEY: At this point from our discussion this is why we're working further with agencies in the building as well we'll be contacting the manufacturer about what options are there and how it works. There's-- I've not been in the pod nor have I seen it without, without the cardboard in front of it so I'm not familiar with it physically. I understand there's also a lock on the door. So they're perhaps-- I have problems with requiring everyone to have the latest of technology to do anything in government.

HUNT: Yeah.

BOB RIPLEY: I think that's, that's egregious.

HUNT: I mean you're lucky Senator Chambers isn't on this committee, he would have a field day with that.

BOB RIPLEY: He, he-- no, I, I don't, I don't believe you should be running around imposing certain standards of technology on every citizen just to gain access to the services much less the features of government so our intent is to make it far more accessible than that.

HUNT: OK. Thank you very much.

BOB RIPLEY: Sure.

BREWER: All right. Any additional questions? Yes, sir.

KOLOWSKI: Just one if I could or more of a statement I, I believe, Mr. Chairman. Bob, I hope by the time you're ready to retire that you write a book about this bill. I want to read that. I really do. I think the stories you have to tell and the number of issues that surround you in a, a facility like this which is beautiful in all its glory but also has impediments as you go through many of the changes and fix ups that you have to have. So I leave that with you--

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee March 15, 2019

BOB RIPLEY: Thank you.

KOLOWSKI: --as a future to do that.

BOB RIPLEY: I'll ponder that.

BREWER: And, and do understand I meant it in the nicest of ways about the warlord part of that.

BOB RIPLEY: I took it no other way.

BREWER: Good. All right. Well, thank you for your testimony.

BOB RIPLEY: Absolutely. Thank you.

BREWER: All right. Any additional in the neutral capacity? Seeing none, Senator Cavanaugh, come on back for closing.

CAVANAUGH: Thank you, Senator-- Chairman Brewer. So this is actually just an effort to teach women how to assemble weapons while pumping.
[LAUGHTER]

BREWER: Could do that.

CAVANAUGH: We're very good at multitasking. [LAUGHTER] Thank you all for taking the time today to, to hear about this. It's an important issue. When I started talking about it people, like Senator Hansen's staff member, started coming and talking to me about it. And the enthusiasm from women who have worked in this building for a long time who would have loved to have seen this decades ago to women that are currently here who could utilize this service. If any of you know any female lobbyists, they will all say to you, there's no Wi-Fi in that bathroom. It is the first thing they all say so it's important to understand that half of the people that come into this building are, are not experiencing the building fully and enjoying it fully. If you have to leave your car to eat a sandwich, you probably need to rethink how you're doing some things. So I very much appreciate you taking the time and this was probably the most fun I've had introducing a bill and thank you. It's my last one.

BREWER: That's the beauty of government.

CAVANAUGH: Well, yeah. I should, I should have asked for this committee.

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office
Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee March 15, 2019

BREWER: You should have. All right. Any questions before we wrap up?
All right. Thank you for your testimony.

CAVANAUGH: Thank you.

BREWER: We do have letters to read in on LB709. We have two
proponents; no one in opposition; no one in the neutral with letters.
And with that, that closes the hearing on LB709. And we will
transition to Exec Committee as soon--