

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature  
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Rough Draft

General Affairs Committee  
April 07, 2014

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[CONFIRMATION]

The Committee on General Affairs met at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, April 7, 2014, in Room 1510 of the State Capitol, Lincoln, Nebraska, for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on a gubernatorial appointment. Senators present: Russ Karpisek, Chairperson; Colby Coash, Vice Chairperson; Dave Bloomfield; Sue Crawford; and Jerry Johnson. Senators absent: Bob Krist; Scott Lautenbaugh; and Ken Schilz.

SENATOR KARPISEK: Okay. We'll get going. Welcome to the General Affairs Committee. We are meeting for the appointment of James Brummer to the State Electrical Board, and he is a new member. You want to come up to the table, please? Welcome to the committee. Just have a seat here. And if you would state your name and spell it for us for the record. [CONFIRMATION]

JAMES BRUMMER: James Brummer, J-a-m-e-s, Brummer, B-r-u-m-m-e-r.  
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KARPISEK: Thank you. And thank you for being here. [CONFIRMATION]

JAMES BRUMMER: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KARPISEK: Tell us a little bit about yourself and why you'd like to be on the Electrical Board. [CONFIRMATION]

JAMES BRUMMER: Okay. I started my career as an electrician. Actually graduated for went to college for whatever and worked as an electrician for a couple of years, got in with a power company up by Hartington, which is the REA up there. Worked for those guys for roughly six years and kind of wanted to continue to get into jobs where I could kind of progress within a company and got on with Nebraska Public Power District. And been with those guys 24 years this September. To get on the board, I thought it was

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pretty important because I'm kind of involved quite a bit with the state electrical inspectors between Randy with the state and then with the city electrical inspector with Norfolk. Worked with a lot of electricians. My job is they call...I'm called a planner scheduler, and what I actually do is basically I went from working for the...in the power industry as a lineman. Worked my way up to journeyman lineman, like a local manager is what we had a couple of towns that I took care of and actually worked with a lot of the electrical inspectors or whatever at that time too. And then got into this position. I thought, well, I kind of wanted to go into the design part of it. So now I basically work with contractors, developers, and design how we're going to build our...the facilities that we have. So work quite a bit with those guys. Still know a little bit about some of the codes and things like that. As a power company, we kind of go by the NESC not the NEC on that part on the type of rules that we have to go by. But I think the relationship with the state is pretty important as the state electrical inspectors is pretty important. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KARPISEK: Very good. Thank you. Do we have any questions? Senator Johnson. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Thank you. Thank you for coming in, James. Are you required...I know you would have had an electrical license when you were employed before 1984, are you required as part of your current job to maintain an electrical license? [CONFIRMATION]

JAMES BRUMMER: No. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: You're not. [CONFIRMATION]

JAMES BRUMMER: No. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: So have you...you work with those, how do you keep up with the

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codes from a, let's say just a commercial side of it or residential side of it?

[CONFIRMATION]

JAMES BRUMMER: On our side of it as in with the power company, we actually go by a different set of codes. It's the NESC, National Electric Safety Code. Those are the codes that we go by. And we basically design like the big power lines to get to like the services to the meter on the house. We don't...the electricians and the city inspectors basically take care of everything from the meter on in. And that's where they basically go by the NEC, the National Electric Code. So there is a little bit of difference between the codes that us as myself working for the power company if that's what you're asking.

[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Well, yeah. And part of what the responsibility at least I think of the electrical board is dealing with residential, commercial, business, and those types. So the value of or the necessity evidently is not a necessity to be up to speed on what the codes are for a residential building or a home or a business, small business. As you meet as a board to regulate that industry, I'm just curious what...where you're at with that. [CONFIRMATION]

JAMES BRUMMER: Some of it that we run into, and there's...depending on like the type of disconnects and mains, the meter sockets and the installations that they have, there's things that from working with the city inspector I know what some of them rules are. And if I had an electrician that comes in and he's...you know, we basically design projects, send inspect letters on what NPPD requires. We don't have any say in what they have to do beyond the meter. But there's certain things where, say like you have an electrician that decides he's going to put a meter socket at a location that our requirements are different. And then we kind of work with them that's like, okay, we need to get on the same page with what you basically bid it for, the develop or the customer to what the city electrical inspector will allow them to do, along with what we require. So it's kind of...we kind of work in conjunction with some of that stuff.

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[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KARPISEK: Thank you, Senator Johnson. Any other questions? Seeing none, thank you for appearing, and do you have any other bits of information, wisdom for us? [CONFIRMATION]

JAMES BRUMMER: No. I'm looking forward to being on the board and I thought it'd be a really good learning experience on that part of it. And then I got pretty good resources within NPPD. There's things that us as a power company or as the public power entities in the state of Nebraska, I have the resource to get that information out also. So...  
[CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KARPISEK: Very good. Well, thank you for volunteering to do this, and we need good people to do that stuff. [CONFIRMATION]

JAMES BRUMMER: Okay. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KARPISEK: So we appreciate it. [CONFIRMATION]

JAMES BRUMMER: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR KARPISEK: Thank you. Do we have anyone here in support of Mr. Brummer? Seeing none, is there anyone in opposition? Anyone in a neutral capacity? Seeing none, that will close the hearing for James Brummer for the State Electrical Board. Thank you and we will go into Exec quickly and see what we do.  
[CONFIRMATION]