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March 11, 2004 LB 890

SENATOR FRIEND: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, LB 890 amends the Geologists Regulation Act, 81-3501 through 81-3541, to allow the Board of Geologists to actually recognize geologist interns. Under the proposed legislation, geologist interns are geologists who have graduated with a degree in geology or a related earth science and who have passed the national standardized exam demonstrating proficiency in the fundamentals of the science of geology but who have not yet accumulated the required five years of professional experience to qualify for licensure as a professional geologist in Nebraska. LB 890 is intended to offer additional interim recognition of the qualifications of young professionals who are seeking career development prior to full licensure. The Board of Geologists originally sought to address the creation of such a geologist intern status in its rules and regulations. But the Attorney General...the Attorney General's Office, I should say, through its review of the board's draft rules and regulations, informed them that such a status must be defined through statute. LB 890 establishes essentially the same intern process used by the Board of Engineers and Architects for engineer interns. Their engineer intern program was adopted by the Legislature in 1997, and it's been very beneficial to them. It's essential that the process for becoming a professional geologist in Nebraska directly parallels the process used by the engineering community, because both professionals practice before the public. And additionally, potential employers will understand that a geologist intern has demonstrated his or her capacity by passing an examination and has a personal initiative to start toward the process of becoming a licensed professional geologist. Senator Schrock will introduce a minor technical committee amendment. I just wanted to say thank you for the consideration of this matter. And I ask for the advancement of LB 888 (sic-LB 890) with the committee amendment. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Friend. There are committee amendments, as stated, by the Natural Resources Committee. Senator Schrock, as Chairman of that committee, you're recognized to open on AM2327.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President, the committee amendment states