

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature  
Transcriber's Office

Transportation and Telecommunications Committee  
April 01, 2008

---

[CONFIRMATION]

The Committee on Transportation and Telecommunications met at 8:45 a.m. on Tuesday, April 1, 2008, in Room 1113 of the State Capitol, Lincoln, Nebraska, for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on gubernatorial appointments. Senators present: Deb Fischer, Chairperson; Arnie Stuthman, Vice Chairperson; Ray Aguilar; Carol Hudkins; LeRoy Loudon; Dwite Pedersen; and DiAnna Schimek. Senators absent: Scott Lautenbaugh. []

SENATOR FISCHER: (Exhibits 1 and 2) Good morning and welcome to the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee. My name is Deb Fischer. I am the Chair of the committee and I'm a senator from Valentine, Nebraska, District 43. To my far right is Senator DiAnna Schimek from Lincoln; next to Senator Schimek is Senator Arnie Stuthman from Platte Center who is the Vice Chair of the committee; Senator Ray Aguilar is next, he's from Grand Island; to my immediate right is Mr. Dustin Vaughan who is our committee counsel; to my immediate left is Mrs. Pauline Bulgrin, she is the committee clerk; next to Mrs. Bulgrin is Senator Carol Hudkins from Malcolm, Nebraska; and on the far left is Senator LeRoy Loudon from Ellsworth, Nebraska. I will open the hearing. We have two appointments this morning. The first is Dr. Janie Park from Chadron. She was unable to be here today. We are looking at an appointment to the Nebraska Information Technology Commission. I would like to note that Dr. Park did send in a letter that is in your notebooks but she was unable to be here. So at this time, I would ask if there is anyone here to speak in support of the confirmation.

[CONFIRMATION]

BRENDA DECKER: And I am. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR FISCHER: Welcome. [CONFIRMATION]

BRENDA DECKER: Thank you. Good morning, Senators. Senator Fischer, members of the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee, my name is Brenda Decker, D-e-c-k-e-r. I'm the Chief Information Officer for the state of Nebraska and my office supports the Nebraska Information Technology Commission. I am here to answer any questions. I know that you all have a copy of Dr. Park's resume in front of you. Dr. Park has served on the Nebraska Information Technology Commission since 2005 when she was appointed to fill an uncompleted term of Susan Heider, and this will be Dr. Park's first official appointment for her own term to the NITC. NITC commissioners can serve two terms on the commission. Dr. Park has been a very active member of the Nebraska Information Technology Commission. We deploy technology to actually allow her to participate from Chadron for most of the meetings. She does attend meetings. We also make an effort with the commission to have one meeting outside of the Lincoln and Omaha area each year, and she has graciously, actually hosted that meeting for us a couple of times so we've all gone to Chadron rather than having everyone come to

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature  
Transcriber's Office

Transportation and Telecommunications Committee  
April 01, 2008

---

Lincoln. So it's been a very, very valuable appointment and she does a wonderful job. I'd be happy to answer any questions the committee may have. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR FISCHER: Thank you, Brenda. Are there questions? Senator Louden. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR LOUDEN: Yes, thank you, Senator Fischer. Yeah, I personally know Dr. Park and she's very good. She's been the president up there at Chadron State College for about two years now, I think. And she's worked in some new ideas and she's working on some, as most new presidents do, new building programs and so I would certainly vouch for her. And when I looked at the resume that went with her, I thought, yeah, this is Dr. Park and every bit of it's probably true. So I certainly would fully recommend her and she would have my vote. [CONFIRMATION]

BRENDA DECKER: Well, thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR FISCHER: Other questions? Senator Stuthman. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Thank you, Senator Fischer. But, Brenda, you had answered the question that I was going to ask in your opening comments. And the thing that I'm always concerned about is, you know, when people are appointed to boards, how active they are and how involved they are. And I think you did describe that very much, so I really, really think that's good. Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

BRENDA DECKER: She does a fabulous job. Thank you, Senator. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR FISCHER: Other questions? I see none. Thank you, Brenda, for being here today. [CONFIRMATION]

BRENDA DECKER: Thank you very much. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR FISCHER: Any other proponents for the nomination? Any opponents? Anyone willing to...why do I always say that? Anyone willing to testify in the neutral capacity? I would like to note at this time that Senator Dwite Pedersen has joined the group and also our page for the day is Denny Vaggalis and he is from Lincoln. With that, we will move on to the next confirmation and that is for Trev Peterson. Welcome, Mr. Peterson. [CONFIRMATION]

TREV PETERSON: (Exhibit 3) Thank you, Senator and members of the committee. My name is Trev Peterson. I am, in fact, the real Trev Peterson. (Laughter) [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR SCHIMEK: What does that mean? (Laughter) [CONFIRMATION]

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature  
Transcriber's Office

Transportation and Telecommunications Committee  
April 01, 2008

---

TREV PETERSON: I don't know. (Laughter) I have served on the NITC for, I think I served a partial term and then a four-year term, so this would be my second term. I think I've been on the NITC for six or seven years. Over that time, I believe that I attended every meeting in person with one exception and I attended by teleconference that one time, so preempts your question. I'm sorry about that. I'm an attorney here in Lincoln. I've a lifelong Lincoln residence. I think I got involved in technology when our law firm installed its first computer about 20 years ago. Since then technology, at least in my office, has passed me by. I'm not the IT guy anymore. We have someone who really knows what they're doing instead of a lawyer who practices IT on the side so. I've enjoyed my time on the committee, the commission, and I'd respectfully be willing to serve another four-year term. I'd answer any questions that any of you might have. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR FISCHER: Thank you, Mr. Peterson. Are there questions? Senator Hudkins. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR HUDKINS: Thank you. Trev, I'm afraid that I will not be able to support your, your confirmation. You were just too qualified, you were just too good, and April Fool. (Laughter) I have known Trev for a number of years so I'm very pleased that he is being reappointed. [CONFIRMATION]

TREV PETERSON: I had a friend who did say that only I would have a confirmation hearing on April Fools' day, so. (Laughter) [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR HUDKINS: April Fools? (Laughter) [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR FISCHER: We do what we can. [CONFIRMATION]

TREV PETERSON: And I appreciate that. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR FISCHER: Other questions? Senator Schimek. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Madam Chair. It's more of a comment than a question, Mr. Peterson. First of all, I want to commend you for being here even though it's a reappointment. I want to commend you for your high diligence, I guess, in attending all of the meetings. That's very good. That's my comment. My question would be, what kind of things do you decide on this committee? [CONFIRMATION]

TREV PETERSON: Well, initially, I think, the first few meetings I was involved with, the state had in excess of 30 e-mail systems running differently. I think we've reduced that now. The goal is to reduce it to one. I think we may be at two right now but we're on our way to one. Those are the kind of things that we deal with. We also deal with technology

Transcript Prepared By the Clerk of the Legislature  
Transcriber's Office

Transportation and Telecommunications Committee  
April 01, 2008

---

standards. We've dealt a lot with security testing and security standards. Surprisingly enough, there are users, users in my own office, in fact, that won't change their passwords. Or when they change their password, they write it down and put it right by the computer screen. Very dangerous when you're dealing...and you can imagine someone at HHS or the Department of Revenue who would have access potentially to people's Social Security numbers and all sorts of personal data. You know, that's a very serious concern of the commission, a serious concern of me personally, and serious concern of the people who adopt, propose the security proposals that we adopt. Once the security proposals are adopted, for example, then they are usually statewide guidelines that all state government would comply with. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Interesting. I understand the leaving the password by the computer. There was an article in the Lincoln Journal Star not too long ago, some writer talked about all the passwords that she had to remember and all the codes and everything and what a difficult thing it is in the modern world. So when you remember your office password and you're remembering all your different sites on your home computer, passwords, it does get to be difficult but thank you for your service. [CONFIRMATION]

TREV PETERSON: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR FISCHER: Any other questions? Thank you so much for coming today. It's important for the committee to see who you are and have a chance to have a short visit, so thank you, Mr. Peterson. [CONFIRMATION]

TREV PETERSON: Thank you. [CONFIRMATION]

SENATOR FISCHER: Anyone here to speak in support of the nomination? Anyone in opposition? Anyone in the neutral capacity? Seeing none, with that I will close the hearing and again appreciate you coming this morning. Thank you so much. I would entertain a motion... [CONFIRMATION]

---

Chairperson

---

Committee Clerk