

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Natural Resources Committee April 24, 2025

**BRANDT:** Welcome to your Natural Resources Committee. I'm Senator Tom Brandt. I'm the chairman of the committee. Today, we're going to dispense with the reading of pretty much everything and have the senators introduce themselves real quick, starting on my left.

**HUGHES:** I'm Senator Jana Hughes, District 24: Seward, York, Polk, and a little bit of Butler County.

**DeKAY:** Barry DeKay representing District 40, which is Holt, Knox, Cedar, Antelope, northern part of Pierce, northern part Dixon County.

**MOSER:** Mike Moser, District 22, it's Platte County and most of Stanton County.

**JUAREZ:** Margo Juarez, District 5, south Omaha.

**BRANDT:** On my far left is our committee clerk, Sally Schultz. Normally, we would have Cyndi Lamm, our legal counsel here. Sitting in for her is Travis, my LA. So with that, we will go to our one item today. Confirmation hearing for the appointment of Dennis-- is it Grennan-- Grennan, to the Nebraska Power Review Board. He will be a lay member as an independent. Length of term will be from March 19, 2025 to January 1 of 2029. Mr. Grennan resides in Columbus, Nebraska, is a mechanical engineer and an engineering consultant for HDR Engineering. Mr. Grennan is a new appointment to the Nebraska Power Review Board, although he previously served on the Board from 2014 to 2023. Just a bit of background about the Power Review Board, the purpose of the board is to oversee Nebraska's electrical industry to ensure that Nebraska residents receive adequate, reliable electrical service at the lowest overall possible cost. Mr. Grennan, if you would please come forward and tell us a little bit about yourself.

**DENNIS GRENNAN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee for allowing me to appear before you today. Just a little background on myself, I--

**BRANDT:** And Mr., Mr. Grennan, you're going to have to spell your name, say and spell your name for the record.

**DENNIS GRENNAN:** Oh, certainly. Name is Dennis, D-e-n-n-i-s, and Grennan is G-r-e-n-n-a-n. My wife Connie and I live in Columbus. We've lived there about 30 years. We have 3 grown children and 11 grandchildren, which keep us busy and have a lot of fun with, so. As mentioned, I have a degree in mechanical engineering. I also attended executive programs at the University of Michigan and also a nuclear

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executive program at MIT several years ago when I was with NPPD. Work background, I worked with NPPD for 32 years, started there right out of school. My first 20 years was mostly involved with generation, including plant manager at the Gerald Gentleman Station for 8 years. And then my last 10 years, I was vice president of transmission, distribution, customer services, and a few other things, economic development, and so forth. But-- so that was my 32 years there. Then after I retired, I decided I wasn't ready to retire, so I went to work with HDR. I'm still part time with HDR, that's an engineering consulting firm headquartered in Omaha, nationwide, and so I've been doing that for the last 22 years. As mentioned, I've previously served on the Power Review Board from 2014 through 2022. And in 2016, I was named the Nebraska representative to the Southwest Power Pool and served on the regional state committee, which is a committee of commissioners from all-- at that time 14 states across the SPP, and then I was president of the RSC in 2020, and had the privilege to serving on several task forces there at the Southwest Power Pool including the overall, we did-- spent a year looking at all the tariffs across SPP and how they were being applied and so forth and then with all the changes going on across SPP whether they were still applicable and we made quite a few changes during that year. So I'm somewhat familiar with SPP and how they've been growing ever since, so. Mainly I just want to continue, continue serving on the Power Review Board. As you can tell, I've been involved with the power industry for lots of years and still very much interested in it. And it's, and it's, I guess, driven mostly by just my concern that we always have reliable and affordable electricity because without it our country and our state certainly doesn't function. It's that simple. And, and that's the simple side of it. The complex side of it is to make sure it happens every day, every minute, every second. So I, I just want to make sure issues that come before the Power Review Board, and not all of them do, but whatever they do, that I can be able to participate and, hopefully, bring some experience and knowledge to that decision-making. I think utilities are doing a, a good job of preparing for the future as we've heard a lot about AI and the power consumption and the demands that are going to grow. That's going to continue not only in Nebraska, but across SPP. And so that resource build-out and that mix and having the right mix is very important so that we do have that power when we need it. It's not just about capacity, it's about having the power when you need it, so, and make sure it's not only reliable, but affordable. So I would ask your approval today to be able to serve on the Power Review Board for another term.

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**BRANDT:** All right, let's see if we have any questions. Questions?

**JUAREZ:** I have one.

**BRANDT:** Senator Juarez.

**JUAREZ:** Thank you for being willing to serve again. I was just curious where some of your consulting with HDR has taken you, because their headquarters is about 10 minutes from my house?

**DENNIS GRENNAN:** OK, yeah. Well, when I first started for HDR over 20 years ago, they, they were doing some work around the power industry and as they talked to me and said they wanted to do more, and some of my relationships helped grow that program. So now about a third of their business is power related, not just because of me, but I helped, helped get it started. So I did work for HDR, as you know, they're across the nation, but primarily up and down the SPP footprint, all the way from North Dakota down into Texas, and in between. A lot of transmission-related work, routing of transmission, build-out, design, quite a bit of generation work. And at the time when I first started, renewables were really just kind of getting a good start, so helped get them get into the wind and solar. We did a lot of design of some of the first solar farms in California and Florida. So I helped with that, so.

**JUAREZ:** Very cool. Thank you.

**DENNIS GRENNAN:** Yeah.

**BRANDT:** Any other questions? Seeing none, thank you.

**DENNIS GRENNAN:** Thank you.

**BRANDT:** We'll now ask for proponents? Seeing none, opponents? Seeing none, anyone in the neutral capacity? I don't think we had any letters. Did we? OK. That will close our hearing today. Thank you, gentlemen. We're going to go into exec session, so we're going to have to ask you to leave the room.