

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

May 30, 2003

CLERK: Mr. President, a second report from Natural Resources involving the appointments of two individuals to the Environmental Trust Board.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Schrock, you're recognized to open on the second report offered by your committee.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, we have two appointments to the Environmental Trust Board. We have Barb Batie from Lexington and Rob Ravenscroft from Lincoln. They both appeared in front of the committee on May 28; unanimous vote by the committee. Both are new appointments. Barb Batie farms with her family and also writes for various newspapers from the Lexington area. She is well known by Senator Cudaback and Senator Jones. Rob Ravenscroft is a retired rancher, charter member of the Sandhills Task Force, member of the Nebraska Partnership and All Bird Conservation of Nebraska, a member of the Nebraska Cattlemen, and many other related organizations. If you have any questions, why, he's well acquainted with Senator Jones also. This appears to be the last agenda item on the last day of the session. I assume if you want to know more, you'll ask. Thank you for your time. I would recommend that you vote yes on both these appointments.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. You've heard the opening on confirmation report number two, offered by the Natural Resources Committee. Open for discussion on that report. Senator Preister.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the body, I rise to raise an issue, not on these two particular candidates, but on the process. We had to suspend the rules on these hearings to be able to even get these confirmations done. We're doing this at the...during the very last week, during the very end of the session. These last two particular candidates had their applications filled out on February 6. The information had been turned in and, yet, we're waiting this late to do this when it should have been done a lot sooner. It's my understanding in the hearing that a call from the agency was not returned from boards and commissions, a call from the Clerk was