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SENATOR KREMER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. Today I am reporting on the confirmation hearing, first of all, for the State Fair Board of Mr. Frank Partsch, and this is his second term. It will be a three-year term, and the State Fair Board now is...used to be the Nebraska State Fair Board, but now is...it changed the name to the board of...well, wait a minute. Let me get that later sometime. Frank Partsch is a retired editorial page editor of the World-Herald. He is...represents the business community of Omaha, and he originally was appointed to a one-year term last year and this is a reappointment for three years. Mr. Partsch has graduated from Saint Paul High School. He earned his B.A. in journalism at UNL, and a master in journalism at Ohio State. He's a board member of the Nebraska Conference of Editorial Writers, and All Our Kids, Incorporated. Mr. Partsch's appointment marks the end of his first year. The changes that were in the State Fair Board that we passed last year: LB 1236 was enacted and it renamed the State Board of Agriculture to the Nebraska State Fair Board, and it specifies a 13-member board. Just to refresh your memory a little bit on the new structure, there are seven members drawn from among agriculture leaders, from the ag societies, and they're elected by district, and then the new part of the State Fair Board, the structure, was four members that were appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Legislature, two of which represent the business community in Lincoln, and one the business community in Omaha, and then one the business community of the state at large. And Mr. Partsch represents the one from Omaha. LB 1236 was enacted partly in the response to a program evaluation, which was finding a deteriorating financial condition of the State Fair, and the changes made in LB 1236 included changing the governance of the State Fair and it intended to increase the fair's ties with the private sector and enhance the opportunity of private support and promotion of the State Fair and the fairgrounds. The committee had the hearing on January 20. Mr. Partsch appeared there in person, and the committee voted 7 to 1 to approve his appointment. We asked a little bit about his evaluation of what was happening with the new board, and he commented that the base is being laid for recovery and he mentioned several things. One was the reenactment of the State Fair Foundation, the Governor-led campaign to raise \$8 million. Another was the formation of the