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Senator, with your permission, I would...I assume you'd like to present the name of John T. Baker as an appointee to the Environmental Quality Council. (Legislative Journal page 727.)

SENATOR SCHROCK: That's correct.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Schrock, you're recognized to open on the divided report.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, when we undid the nomination of Deb McDowell a few days ago, we did the same to John Baker. And so now we need to reaffirm John Baker to the Environmental Quality Council. I'll just briefly tell you a little bit about Mr. Baker. He is from Scottsbluff. He's a consulting engineer with Baker and Associates. He is a reappointment, representing the professional engineers on the council. He received his B.S. degree in civil engineering from Virginia Military Institute. He's a member of the board of directors of the Nebraska section of American Consulting Engineers Council, and the national board of directors of the American Consulting Engineers Council. John has won several state and national engineering awards, and has published four articles on environmental issues in national magazines. So I would appreciate if you would advance his name for the second time, so he can serve on the Environmental Quality Council.

SENATOR CUDABACK: You've heard the opening on the report offered by the Natural Resources Committee. Open for discussion. Senator Preister.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I do support what Senator Schrock is doing here. I remain concerned about the process, the overall process. The Governor did contact me after my concerns were expressed to the floor last year, and said a new person had been appointed to handle the boards and commissions and that portion of the process. And I appreciate that. And the Governor assured me that things were going to change and things were going to improve and we would see that improvement. I think he was sincere. I think he meant it. I think the new person hired is attempting to do that. There's a long backlog of appointments.