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SPEAKER BRASHEAR: Thank you, Senator Baker. Further nominations? Hearing none, Senator Cudaback, for a motion, please.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Mr. Speaker, I move that nominations be closed and a unanimous vote, by acclamation, be cast for Senator Baker.

SPEAKER BRASHEAR: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. You've heard the motion. It is to cast a unanimous ballot for Senator Baker for Chair of the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee. All those in favor signify by saying aye. Those opposed, nay. It is done. Congratulations, Senator Baker. And now we will proceed to the election of the Chair of the Urban Affairs Committee. Nominations are open. Senator Friend.

SENATOR FRIEND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the Legislature, I stand to respectfully submit my name for your consideration as Chairperson of the Legislature's Urban Affairs Committee. A lot of people...why, why would you want to do this? Four kids, a lot of things to do, plenty of things outside of here to try to accomplish. I'll be brief. I know Senator Mines mentioned that that's virtually impossible for me, but I will be brief. A few reasons: I know this state. There's a misconception with a lot of folks...by a lot of folks around the state about folks in Omaha, that they may not know a lot of the things going on around the state. Well, my daughter was born in Grand Island, my oldest daughter. I lived there for four years. I lived in Nebraska City for three years. I worked at a small newspaper there. I made less money than I actually make doing this job. It's a great town. I lived in Kearney for two years. I actually studied and tried to pay bills there, went to school. I know this state. I like this state, and I've in a lot of the small towns around here, and I've worked in a lot of the communities. I have a comfort level with the issues that are associated with the Urban Affairs Committee. I don't have the comfort level that even some in this body may have, but I do have a comfort level with them. And I also find them interesting. And I would share some of those interesting issues with you, but they're so exciting and so vigorous that we'd be here for, I don't know. Everybody wants to eat. So I do find