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SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Kremer, Chairman of Agriculture Committee, you're recognized to open on your first report.

SENATOR KREMER: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. The Agriculture Committee wishes to report favorably upon the appointment of Jamie Karl to the Climate Assessment Response Committee, and recommends the body approve his appointment. Jamie Karl is...currently serves as deputy director of Agriculture since July of 2005. He serves as the legislative director for Congressman Lee Terry and legislative assistant to Senator Chuck Hagel. He is a native of Dorchester, Nebraska, and a graduate of UNL in 1997, in journalism. He served for 20 months, enlistment in the U.S. Army. He...his family farms in Dorchester, or near Dorchester. Mr. Karl continues to be involved in the family farming operation. I'll just give you a little bit about the Climate Assessment Response Committee. It's created in enactment of LB 274 in 1992, and to replace the Drought Assessment and Response Team. It assists in updating drought and other climatological emergency response planning. The committee is statutorily charged with providing data collected and disseminated of climate and other data. It assists in the development of disaster declaration requests. It catalogs the state and federal assessment response resources. It advises the Governor and the state agencies in the implementation of drought response activities. The committee is housed administratively within the Department of Agriculture, and meets a minimum of twice yearly. The Governors have traditionally named the department director of Agriculture...or the deputy director of Agriculture as the committee chair, and the appointment will assume that chairmanship. A confirmation hearing was held on January 31. Mr. Karl appeared in person and the committee voted unanimously, with all members present, to recommend approval of Mr. Karl's appointment. I move the adoption of the Agriculture Committee's report on the confirmation of the appointment of Jamie Karl to the Climate Assessment Response Committee. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Chairman Kremer. You've heard the opening on the report by Agriculture Committee. Open for