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

March 28, 2006 LB 1226

reasonable proposal and I'm reminded... Senator Kremer said several things that other operations have, people that are nonprofessional, if you will, if that's the correct term, nontechnical professionals, at least. Well, your hospitals are very seldom, I understand, managed by doctors anymore. They're usually managers, they're business managers or whatever, whatever. And so I think this follows the same pattern. doesn't necessarily follow that an engineer is the right person for the job in that particular field, and in this case, the DNR. It isn't to say there shouldn't be expertise in the department. And I guess I would like to ask Senator Chambers, when he is preparing for his debate on Select File--and I know he is going to work diligently to do that -- to be prepared to understand why, you know, from his point of view, that it has to be, has to be, has to be a professional engineer. And as Senator Kremer responded, it can be a chemical engineer, could be electrical engineer, just simply says engineer. I think generally we've had civil engineers, hydrology engineers, whatever the name, correct term is. But I think there ought to be at least a little listening provided to understand the point of view that we don't think it necessarily has to be an engineer as the top spot. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I wish we could have a debate and let people decide. When I was chosen to represent my district, that's what I thought we could do. I will reluctantly withdraw my amendment and file on Select Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. One thing, the Department of Natural Resources has changed. We combined two departments together, and some of the requirements back 20, 30, 40 years ago, things have changed, and I think at this time... I as a senator don't have the expertise as an attorney or anybody else. That's why we have staff to do it, and if I wouldn't have Rick to help me, there are so many things I wouldn't do. So we all put people around us that have an expertise that we don't, that we utilize that, and I just...and like I said before, I think the engineering degree would be something that would be a plus if you found that person, but I think it's more important to have somebody with administrative qualities and be able to work