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Appropriations Committee  
February 05, 2014

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[AGENCY 47]

The Committee on Appropriations met at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 5, 2014, in Room 1003 of the State Capitol, Lincoln, Nebraska, for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on LB944, LB1026, and LB969, and agency budgets. Senators present: Heath Mello, Chairperson; John Harms, Vice Chairperson; Kate Bolz; Danielle Conrad; Bill Kintner; Tyson Larson; John Nelson; Jeremy Nordquist; and John Wightman. Senators absent: None.

SENATOR MELLO: Good afternoon and welcome to the Appropriations Committee. My name is Heath Mello from south Omaha, representing the 5th Legislative District and am the Chair of the Appropriations Committee. I'd like to start off today by having members do self-introductions, starting with Senator Bill Kintner on my far left here, District 2, representing Cass, Sarpy, and parts of Otoe County, who will be joining us shortly.

SENATOR NORDQUIST: State Senator Jeremy Nordquist from District 7, downtown and south Omaha.

SENATOR MELLO: Sitting next to Senator Nordquist is Senator John Nelson from Legislative District 6, representing central Omaha.

SENATOR HARMS: John Harms, representing the 48th District, Scotts Bluff County.

SENATOR WIGHTMAN: John Wightman, District 36, representing all of Dawson and Custer County and a small part of Buffalo County.

SENATOR MELLO: Sitting next to Senator Wightman is Senator Danielle Conrad, representing the 46th Legislative District in north Lincoln.

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SENATOR BOLZ: Senator Kate Bolz. I represent District 29 in south-central Lincoln.

SENATOR MELLO: Sitting next to Senator Bolz is Senator Tyson Larson, representing Legislative District 40 in north-central, northeast Nebraska. Assisting the committee today is Anthony Circo, our committee clerk; and Matthew Ruiz, who is a senior studying international business at UNL and our committee's page. Sitting to my direct left is Kathy Tenopir, our legislative fiscal analyst for the initial couple agencies. On the cabinet to your right you will find some yellow testifier sheets. If you're planning on testifying today, please fill out one of the sheets and hand it to Matthew when you come up. It helps us keep an accurate record of today's public hearing. There is also a white sheet on the cabinet if you do not wish to testify but would like to record your position on a specific bill. We will hear testimony in the following order. First will be the introducer, we will then hear those in support, followed by those in opposition, then those testifying in the neutral capacity. We will end with a closing statement by the bill introducer. If you have any handouts, please bring at least 11 copies and give them to Matthew, our page. If you do not have enough copies, he will help you make more. We ask that you begin your testimony by giving us your first and last name, and spelling it for the public record. We will be using a five-minute light system today. When you begin your testimony, the light on the table will turn green. The yellow light is your one-minute warning. And when the red light comes on, we ask you to wrap up your final thoughts. At this time I'd ask for all of us, including senators, to please check our cell phones and make sure they are on silent or vibrate mode. For those who wish to testify on an agency budget or agency appropriations hearing, there is no opposition, neutral, or support. It's simply you come up after the agency gives their initial testimony and you can come up and give your feedback or thoughts on a specific appropriation or the agency's appropriations. With that, at this time we'll begin today's hearing with Agency 47, which is the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission, which we received a letter from the commission supporting the committee's...the Appropriations Committee preliminary recommendation for their budget. (Exhibit 1) At that time, is there anyone else wishing to testify on Agency 47, the Nebraska Educational

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Telecommunications Commission? Seeing none, that will close today's hearing on Agency 47 and lead us next to Agency 48, the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education. [AGENCY 47]