

Transcript Prepared by Clerk of the Legislature Transcribers Office  
Agriculture Committee March 12, 2019

**HALLORAN:** Get your attention. Welcome to the Agriculture Committee. I'm Senator Steve Halloran. I'm from Hastings, Nebraska, and I represent the 33rd Legislative District. I serve as Chair of this committee. The committee will take up the bills in the order posted on the agenda. Our hearing today is your public part of the legislative process. This is your opportunity to express your position on the proposed legislation before us today. The committee members might come and go during the hearing. This is just part of the process as we have bills to introduce in other committees. I ask that you abide by the following procedures to better facilitate today's procedures. Please silence or turn off your cell phones. Please move to the reserve chairs which won't be necessary in this room. They're all reserved. And introducers will make initial statements followed by proponents, opponents, and neutral testimony. Closing remarks are reserved for the introducing senator only. If you are planning to testify, please pick up a green sign-in sheet that is on the table just outside the room. Please fill out the greenish sign-in sheet before you testify. Please print and it is important to complete the form in its entirety. When it is your turn to testify, give the sign-in sheet to a page or to the committee clerk. This will help us make a more accurate public record. If you do not wish to testify today but would like to record your name as being present at the hearing, there is a separate white sheet on the table outside that you can sign for that purpose. This will be a part of the official record of the hearing. If you have handouts, please make sure you have 12 copies and give them to the page when you come up to testify and they will distribute those to the committee. If you do not have enough copies, the pages will make sufficient copies for you. When you come up to testify, please speak clearly into the microphone. Tell us your name and please spell your first and last name to ensure that we get an accurate record. We'll be using the light system today at five minutes to make the initial remarks to the committee. When you see the yellow light come on, that means you have one minute remaining; and the red light indicates your time has ended. Questions from the committee may follow. No displays of support or opposition to a bill, vocal or otherwise, is allowed at the public hearing. The committee members will introduce themselves starting at my far left, Senator Moser.

**MOSER:** I'm Mike Moser from District 22. I represent Platte County, part of Colfax County, and most of Stanton County, unless part of Platte County has washed away. [LAUGHTER]

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**LATHROP:** Steve Lathrop, Legislative District 12 which is in Douglas County, Ralston, and parts of southwest Omaha.

**BLOOD:** Good afternoon. I'm Senator Carol Blood. I represent District 3, which is western Bellevue and southeastern Papillion, Nebraska.

**B. HANSEN:** Senator Ben Hansen, District 16: Washington, Burt, and Cuming Counties.

**BRANDT:** Tom Brandt, District 32: Fillmore, Thayer, Jefferson, Saline, and southwestern Lancaster.

**HALLORAN:** To my left is committee research analyst, Rick Leonard, and to my right is the committee clerk, Rod Krogh. Our pages for the committee-- and we're so glad they showed up on time-- are Brigita Rasmussen. Brigita is a sophomore at UNL with a major in ag education; and Katie Andersen. She's a senior at UNL with a double major in English and political science. Thank you, ladies. We will start off the hearing with some confirmations, and the first one on deck will be Chris Kircher. And these are confirmations for the State Fair Board. Mr. Kircher has served two full terms on the State Fair Board and is eligible for a third final three-year term. You don't have to read that. I like to read, but we'll pass on that, Mr. Kircher. Welcome.

**CHRIS KIRCHER:** Thank you. Thank you for having me.

**HALLORAN:** And this is-- I need to say this is a reappointment, correct?

**CHRIS KIRCHER:** Yes, it is. Yes. I've had the privilege of serving on the State Fair Board now for the past six years and look forward hopefully to serving another-- another three. I-- I've been elected the board chair for the past four years, including a recent reelection. So I will say that the State Fair of other boards that I serve on is probably the most satisfying and most-- probably my favorite board to be on. I think this event and the grounds and the staff really deliver something for the state that is remarkable and can grow. And the fact that we've recently hired a new fair director in Lori Cox I think you're going to continue to see this fair do very well.

**HALLORAN:** OK. Thank you, sir.

**CHRIS KIRCHER:** You're welcome.

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**HALLORAN:** Any questions from the committee? Senator Moser.

**MOSER:** Do you see any alarming issues coming up or are things going along pretty smoothly?

**CHRIS KIRCHER:** Yeah. I think that-- obviously every organization has some challenges. Last year for us it was weather, something we can't really control that well but we can plan around and I think we've done that from a concert standpoint this year. The challenge is to have the kind of concerts where you have big names you need a facility that can seat more than the one that we have on the fairgrounds. So it's a challenge we're going to be working on and trying to figure out how do we, you know, how do we work within the parameters that are before us and how do we consider the future and maybe growing some of the things we're able to do that are successful. I think the other challenge that the fair has is we're actually a tenant of Fonner Park, right? So they're our landlord. The racing industry, you know, has some challenges these days. We only have full control of the grounds for the month of the fair. So it becomes a little difficult when you're working with a partner who's facing business pressures to really work together on keeping the facilities the way they need to be and fully utilizing those facilities in-- in times when the fair is not in operation. So-- but these are just ongoing things. They're nothing new. I think that Lori Cox, who we brought in as director just about a year ago, has some-- already initiated some great ideas. And I think you're going to continue to see more people coming to the fair. I think she's also focused on bringing more people from the eastern part of the state to the fair so that the percentage is a little higher than it is right now.

**MOSER:** Do you find that-- well, this may not be a finding, may be an impression-- the-- is the presence of the fair helpful to the horse racing entity that runs Fonner Park or is it a drag on their [INAUDIBLE]?

**CHRIS KIRCHER:** I think it could-- I think it could even be more helpful to-- to-- to Fonner. We-- we really try to collaborate well with them, you know, celebrating their first race of the season sponsoring one of the races. And we understand that they have a lot of pressure right now so.

**MOSER:** Financially, the State Fair is better off than their horse racers.

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**CHRIS KIRCHER:** I think that that's safe to say. Yeah. And so as, you know, as these buildings continue to age, they're going to need some upkeep and that just puts more financial pressure on things. And we have limited ability to apply resources toward that. So--

**MOSER:** OK. Well, thank you very much.

**CHRIS KIRCHER:** You bet. You bet.

**HALLORAN:** Any further questions from the committee? Yes. Senator Brandt.

**BRANDT:** Thank you, Mr. Kircher, for coming today. And just a point of clarification for myself. So then Fonner Park actually owns all those new buildings?

**CHRIS KIRCHER:** They own all the buildings except for the Nebraska building, which we do own. So we own one of them, but all the others they own.

**BRANDT:** So when it comes time to lease something out in January or February for an event, they get the revenues off of that--

**CHRIS KIRCHER:** They do.

**BRANDT:** --or who gets the revenue off that one building?

**CHRIS KIRCHER:** They get the-- they get the revenue from whatever is going on outside of the fair, period.

**BRANDT:** Okay.

**CHRIS KIRCHER:** And-- and-- and we have taken on the AKSARBEN Stock Show and that's the one event that-- that we do. We have a lot of expertise in that, and we'd love to work with them more in making those facilities viable in other parts of the year.

**BRANDT:** OK. Thank you.

**CHRIS KIRCHER:** Thank you.

**HALLORAN:** Any further comments from the committee? Just say on a personal note, I have to compliment the Fair Board. The fair is a very extremely clean event and the variety is tremendous. The opportunity

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for people to learn about Nebraska and about what the fair represents is really, really good.

**CHRIS KIRCHER:** Well, thank you. And I think it speaks a lot about getting a caliber of executive director from another state who knew about the reputation of this fair. So we intend to keep that growing and keep it a fun event for everyone.

**HALLORAN:** Good. OK. Thank you, Mr. Kircher.

**CHRIS KIRCHER:** Thank you.

**HALLORAN:** Second appointment is Dawn Caldwell. Welcome, Ms. Caldwell. Spell your name. That would be helpful.

**DAWN CALDWELL:** Sure. D-a-w-n C-a-l-d-w-e-l-l. All right. So thank you for hearing us all today. And I will be, unlike Mr. Kircher, I will be brand new at this, not brand new at attending and participating in the State Fair, however. This would be-- I guess when I think about boards that I could serve on or have served on in the past and I've-- I've served on National Cattlemen; I have served on various different things for the co-op in terms of National Co-op Council and sustainability and other things. But this one is something that's far more near and dear to my heart. So I competed in State Fair as a 4-H-er when I was growing up. I never got to do the livestock part and my sister did so I know my parents mellowed immensely. And then my kids, that was something I-- I made sure of for them so I probably live vicariously through my kids, but we showed in Lincoln. I have that old Clay County sign, those old green and white signs that were in the barn signed by each of our Clay County exhibitors that year. And we've been there throughout since it moved to Grand Island. And what a blessing to have that facility. So my dream is nothing more than to have our State Fair continue to grow, to prosper and really become what I would call the single item or event that everybody in Nebraska has to go to. I've attended and-- and showed at other state fairs with our kids. And-- and I want Nebraska-- I want it to be the pearl of Nebraska, if you will. So that's my goal. There's tons of business that goes with that. There's lots of hard decisions that go with that. And I hope I can-- can contribute significantly to the board from not only a previous exhibitor perspective, but then the Aurora Cooperative has their name on a building there at the grounds. So we collaborate with Fonner Park on a regular basis and in addition

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to just-- just knowing how large groups and functions have to-- have to go to be successful.

**HALLORAN:** OK. Thank you, Miss Caldwell. Any questions from the committee? Yes, Senator Blood.

**BLOOD:** Thank you, Chairman Halloran. Just one of curiosity. So how long have you lived in Edgar?

**DAWN CALDWELL:** We are-- we moved there in 2003. So we're coming up on 16 years.

**BLOOD:** And have you always lived in Clay County?

**DAWN CALDWELL:** No. I grew up in Webster County. I was born and raised in Webster County at Guide Rock, so the only Guide Rock in the United States and competed in Webster County 4-H. And then we moved to Clay County after the tornadoes hit Deshler. Actually I did a small stint in Extension in Nuckolls, Thayer, and Fillmore Counties And before I took a role in the feed sales livestock world and actually found our place we live when I was driving around selling feed.

**BLOOD:** And so what brought you to Edgar then-- the space, the land?

**DAWN CALDWELL:** That was a place where our kids could have their livestock. There was a really nice shop for my husband. And it was something that was in our price range out in the country. And it was in the center between where we farm and very north-central Kansas and over by Guide Rock and south of Guide Rock and my job in Aurora.

**BLOOD:** Nice.

**DAWN CALDWELL:** So we spend a lot of money on gas.

**BLOOD:** My-- my mom is from Edgar.

**DAWN CALDWELL:** She is?

**BLOOD:** My dad is from Clay Center.

**DAWN CALDWELL:** Oh, wonderful.

**BLOOD:** I'm always curious why people move to Edgar. It's a very, very small-- it's a very small community.

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**DAWN CALDWELL:** Yeah. And you really have to need to go there. But Sugar Shack candles bring many, many people there, just saying.

**BLOOD:** Thank you.

**DAWN CALDWELL:** Yep.

**HALLORAN:** Thank you, Senator Blood. Any further questions from the committee? OK. Seeing none, thank you, Ms. Caldwell.

**DAWN CALDWELL:** Thank you.

**HALLORAN:** Appreciate it. The third appointment is Jeremy Jensen. Welcome.

**JEREMY JENSEN:** Thank you.

**HALLORAN:** State your name and spell it for us too.

**JEREMY JENSEN:** Jeremy Jensen, J-e-r-e-m-y, last name Jensen, J-e-n-s-e-n. So it's an honor for me to be here. Some of my background over the previous four years I had the privilege-- privilege of serving as the mayor of Grand Island. And part of that really centered around trying to promote our community obviously to a lot of different events and venues. And one of the things that I frequently referred to was the Nebraska State Fairgrounds as the crown jewel of our community and obviously something that was-- was very important to us, not only for the event itself; but the other 12 months out of the year frequently I would be on the grounds and welcomed groups to our community, whether it was ag shows, anything. In between there, there's obviously a lot of stuff going on out there. And one of the things that-- that really was important to me was trying to figure out ways to promote that and bring people to our community. Ultimately I was responsible for approximately \$200 million budget, and a big piece of that from our standpoint was visitors, getting people to come to Grand Island. And so one of the things that when you-- when you're the home of the Nebraska State Fair and with those facilities, I frequently looked at that campus and thought could we do better? And my answer was-- was always yes. And it wasn't just about the event itself, but it was trying to figure out ways to make sure that pretty much every week there was something big going on out there. And prior to leaving my post as the mayor, I brought everybody together for a bit of a difficult meeting where we brought the folks from Fonner Park, we brought folks from the city, just normal citizens, as well as

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the State Fair folks and tried to figure out ways that we could work together to improve the foot traffic and the-- the amount of activities that we had there. And really the goal was, was something that I tabbed Project Million. It was something that I think we need to quantify things in order to figure out if we can do better. And we've never really kept a running total on how much usage that campus gets. And so the idea was, was could we bring a million people to that campus over the course of the year, whether it was from the Nebraska State Fair, the horse racing, or all the other things that happened in between. And so putting together those partnerships and those relationships to get that to happen was something that was really important to me before I left office. When I left office, I made the decision that I was going to wait at least a year before I really got involved in anything else. But when the Governor calls you and gives you an opportunity such as this, it made me change my mind pretty quickly, especially with my role from Grand Island. This is definitely a board that is very sought after, thought very highly of all the way around the state. And so I consider it a major honor to be there. From the State Fair perspective, one of the things that I think that-- that I'll bring to the table a little bit different mind-set is, is when you're in city government as I referred to that \$200 million budget, there's two different really types of budgets that we're looking at. One's a general fund budget, which is subsidized primarily by tax dollars. The other are enterprise funds, such as our utility that is really run like a business. And I think one of the things that I would like to see the Nebraska State Fair do is, is to start moving towards the enterprise side of doing business where we diversify the revenue sources and become more involved in some of those things where whether it's promotion of those events, working with Fonner Park trying to figure out what the business plan is there because I know there's an appetite in the community of Grand Island to promote more and more events. And I think that with the expertise that the Nebraska State Fair has, that's definitely something that should be looked at. And if it's a way to bring additional revenue to the table for the event itself, then it's a win-win for everybody involved. So I guess that's the Cliff Notes version of everything. I'd be more than happy to answer any questions that anyone has.

**HALLORAN:** OK. Thank you, Mr. Jensen. Any questions from the committee? Seeing none, I would--

**ROD KROGH:** Oh, Mr. Brandt.

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**HALLORAN:** Oh, I'm sorry, Senator Brandt.

**BRANDT:** Thank you, Chairman Halloran. Your million dollar visitor idea, give me a thumbnail sketch of how you're going to get a million more people in there outside of the State Fair.

**JEREMY JENSEN:** Well, I wouldn't say a million more. I'd say a million in total. You know, with the State Fair if we can continue to increase the attendance from quarter million, was it several hundred thousand per year?

**CHRIS KIRCHER:** About 350.

**JEREMY JENSEN:** About 350 per year, so you're trying to quantify where's that other 650 come from. The other big event is obviously we've got kind of a long history of horse racing and so trying to figure out ways to enhance that and be a good partner with Fonner Park to help them grow. As it was touched on earlier, it's a difficult industry now. We don't know for sure where that's going to go, but if the numbers another 500,000 taking a look at all of those folks. When-- when-- when I would go there and welcome groups to our community, whether it's livestock shows or whatever it was, another example would be the national 4-H shoot, we would literally have people from at that particular event 30 to 35 states that would descend upon Grand Island and they would come to our facilities. It wasn't uncommon for us to have 15 or so states represented with an ag show. And when I would walk through the parking lot looking at all the license plates, you go in and you visit with people, to a person they all raved about the quality of the buildings themselves, the fact that they're new; the fact that they're air-conditioned; the fact that they're clean; the fact that they're centrally located, very easy to travel to all of those things combined. I think we need to figure out ways to further market that campus. And with that obviously, you know, we have to have a business plan and marketing plan with that. There's a lot of people in our community that have already been doing some of those types of things on the periphery. But getting everybody to align to that I think would definitely behoove everybody involved. And I think if the Nebraska State Fair has the ability and the want to, to take the lead in that type of relationship there's-- there's a lot of untapped opportunity for different types of promotion.

**BRANDT:** OK. Thank you.

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**HALLORAN:** Thank you, Senator Brandt. Any further questions? Seeing none, I thank you for submitting your name to-- to be on this-- this board.

**JEREMY JENSEN:** You bet. Thank you.

**HALLORAN:** Thank you. All right. We will proceed now to a hearing for LB45. I'm sorry. Oh, excuse me. Proponents. Are there proponents for any of these fine nominees? Any opponents? Any neutral? No. Thank you so much for coming down today. Appreciate it.

\_\_\_\_\_ : Thank you.

**HALLORAN:** Now we will proceed to LB45.

**BLOOD:** 645.

**HALLORAN:** I'm sorry. Well, I was behind time. Don't let that-- don't let that skew the balance of this-- this hearing. LB655. And Senator Justin Wayne is unable to present the bill. He has a hearing in Omaha. And I hope I have the name correct. Is it Seeman?

**JAKE SEEMAN:** Yep.

**HALLORAN:** All right. Welcome. This is Jake Seeman. He's with Senator Justin Wayne's office. Welcome.

**JAKE SEEMAN:** Thank you. Good afternoon, Chairman Halloran, members of the Agriculture Committee. My name is Jake Seeman, J-a-k-e S-e-e-m-a-n. I'm the legislative aide for Senator Justin Wayne, who represents the 13th Legislative District in north Omaha and northeast Douglas County. He was unable to be here for this introduction and so I'm here in his stead. LB655 would amend existing fencing statutes preventing landowners in adjacent properties from forcing or coercing neighbors into paying for fencing they don't need, want, or didn't agree to. The background from this bill was provided to Senator Wayne from a landowner in Scotts Bluff County. This bill would help solve this family's issues and others in similar situations. As laid out in the letter I am providing, an elderly woman deeded 160 acres of unproductive marginal highly erodible land to each of her grandchildren and they're still kids. It is land that has been in their family for over a century. And because of that history, they have no desire or inclination to sell the land and intend to put the land in the Conservation Reserve Program ran by the USDA. The landowner began going through the-- the tedious process of getting

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their land to qualify for the CRP. This process requires the landowners plant specific plants and grasses at specific times with the goal of recreating wild natural state of the prairie and ecosystem that existed there before. The process of complying with the requirements to be accepted in the CRP can be extensive. The plants and seeds required to establish the vegetative cover alone cost this gentleman \$30,000 and took him two years to complete. Throughout the process of meeting CRP qualifications, however, they were being pressured by adjacent landowners into selling their property. After rebuking several attempts, the adjacent landowners then began to insist that they help cover the costs of repairing and replacing an existing fence that separates the property. There must be something done that can-- done to prevent landowners from harassing adjacent owners, pressing them into selling, or making ownership of the land so burdensome that an unwilling owner could be-- could-- could be all but forced into selling. LB655 is an attempt to fix that mandate that if a fence is sitting solely on one person's property or their side of the property line instead of straddling the boundary between two adjacent properties it is-- it is to be paid for and maintained by the person who owns the land unless otherwise agreed to. Senator Wayne understands that this is a complex issue. He has indicated that he is willing to amend the bill and is open to suggestions from the committee and stakeholders to fix the bill if the ultimate spirit or purpose of this-- of this bill is-- is maintained. That's all I have, Chairman Halloran. Thank you for your time, members of the committee. And I'll try to answer any questions I can.

**HALLORAN:** Okay. Thank you, Mr. Seeman. It is protocol when a senator can't present a bill that a-- and a staff person does that we don't ask questions. But I'm willing to break protocol. What did you have for lunch?

**JAKE SEEMAN:** Salisbury steak.

**HALLORAN:** OK.

**JAKE SEEMAN:** In the cafeteria.

**HALLORAN:** Thank you for standing in for Senator Wayne. All right. Are there proponents for LB655? Any proponents? Seeing none, are there any opponents for LB655? Welcome, Mr. Hansen, to the Agriculture Committee.

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**JOHN HANSEN:** Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, for the record my name is John Hansen, J-o-h-n, Hansen, H-a-n-s-e-n. And in preparation for the hearing today, I did go back to an excellent document that was prepared by the staff of this committee, LR371, which really does a nice job of sort of updating the-- the history of all of these different changes that we've made to fence law. And I-- I admit to being a part of and culpable for most of those changes. So I-- I don't think I've missed a fence law going back through the last-- at least last six versions of efforts to try to get a more fair and workable and clear and enforceable standard between landowners. And would-- would suggest to you that-- that I'm in opposition today because I don't view this bill as being a positive fix for any of the things that need to be updated or improved in current fence law. I view it as a dramatic undermining of the very premises of existing fence law and would take us at a fair rate of speed in the opposite direction that we've been on for a very long time. There is a presumption, I think, that is-- that is a part of the premise of existing fence law, which we continue to try to find a better way to enforce, is that there is with comes the ownership of land also comes responsibility. And one of those responsibilities is to take care of half of your fences. And so we have tried to find ways to make sure that landowners are able to work out things between themselves. And so if both folks don't want to have a fence and that's agreeable to both, they don't need to have one. So we're not forcing them to have a fence. But in the case of where one of the landowners wants a fence, is the responsibility at least of both of those landowners to stand half of the costs. And so part of I think that-- what has changed in my time of doing this and-- and having a fair amount of experience in this area before becoming president of Nebraska Farmers Union is that really the-- the-- the ownership of land and ownership patterns have changed in that we have a lot more absentee landowners who may know where their land is at but don't necessarily look at it very often, certainly don't care for it, and have very little to do with it. You also have very different uses. So we've seen the impact of urban sprawl and the uses that go with urban sprawl into-- to traditional farming ground. And so oftentimes there's-- there's dramatic differences relative to the perspectives relative to use. Some might think of a fence as an ornamental thing. The other one might well depend on that fence to keep the cows or the horses or the sheep or whatever they ride on that ground in. So it's a very-- has a very real and practical need. And so there's been a lot of changes that we have made that have been incremental, and they've been made in an effort to try to constantly come up with a better way of doing things. And sometimes the court interprets the-- the law that

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we've all agreed to in ways that causes us to shake our head and go back to the drawing board and say, well, if that's the way the court's going to look at this, then that's clearly not what was intended. So I would suggest that if anything the committee might want to take a look at a fence law through some sort of resolute-- resolution and study it. And there might be some things that we've done in the past that still might be applicable. I'm not sure that we shouldn't revisit the issue of a fence viewer to try to help bring-- resolve conflict between landowners. But this-- this bill, Mr. Chairman, LB655, in our judgment would be a-- cause enormous havoc across the countryside because it would undermine existing-- the premise of existing fence law. Thank you.

**HALLORAN:** Thank you, Mr. Hansen. There's one thing I can depend on with you from the length of time I've known you is you never straddle the fence.

**JOHN HANSEN:** Well, thank you.

**HALLORAN:** Are there any questions?

**JOHN HANSEN:** I don't-- and I don't jump fences as well as I used to, but I used to.

**HALLORAN:** Are there any questions from the committee? Senator Brandt.

**BRANDT:** Thank you, Chairman Halloran. Thank you, Mr. Hansen, for testifying today. Correct me if I'm wrong. So in this situation on existing fence law you have a situation where the neighbor wants you to pay for half of the fence and you don't want to do it. And I raise livestock. Isn't the law today that if he wants to build the fence, he has to build the whole half mile of fence? And as long as I don't use the fence, I don't owe him any remuneration at all. In other words, if I have cattle on my side, I would have to actually electric fence off the fence and not use it. But if I use that fence, then I have to pay him for half the fence. Is that correct, your understanding of current fence law?

**JOHN HANSEN:** I would say no.

**BRANDT:** OK. So in this situation, what would-- what would the current law be?

**JOHN HANSEN:** That there would be an obligation on the part of the landowner in question to either come to some kind of voluntary

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agreement relative to their half of the fence and that usually, you know, sometimes some folks have the ability to build fence and some folks don't. And some folks-- so if the neighbor is willing to do the labor, sometimes the agreement might be that we'll pay for half the materials if you're willing to put the fence in. And so when agreements aren't possible and the one land-- and the one landowner is not willing to pay their half of the expenses or put in a fence themselves, either one, so that you-- you can't come to an agreement, they won't build a fence, what would happen is that the other landowner could-- could-- would need to notify, would need to visit with the neighbor, tell him that, look, we got to do something here. I need a fence, and we're gonna have to put this in. And, you know, let him have the options; but if they're not willing to do anything, they can build the fence themselves and they can charge half of the labor and half the expenses. And if I got that wrong, Rick [INAUDIBLE]. But that's pretty much the way it is now. And then there is-- there is legal enforcement if-- if they don't pay. You can take that to county court.

**BRANDT:** All right. Thank you.

**HALLORAN:** OK. Thank you, Senator Brandt. Any further questions from the committee? Senator Moser.

**MOSER:** I was wondering if we can ask our legal-- legal counsel if he concurs with Mr. Hansen's paraphrase of the fence law.

**BLOOD:** He gave us notes.

**HALLORAN:** No.

**HALLORAN:** Mr. Leonard will provide a memo to detail this out in regard to his understanding of the current law.

**MOSER:** I read the description here.

**HALLORAN:** Right.

**MOSER:** But I-- it-- from reading this, this didn't agree with what Mr. Hansen said. And so that's why I'm asking for clarification so.

**HALLORAN:** Feel free to ask Mr. Hansen if you have some clarification questions.

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**MOSER:** I don't want to ask him any more questions.

**HALLORAN:** OK.

**JOHN HANSEN:** Boy, thank goodness for that. I would just conclude by saying that this is-- it gets really complicated. It gets far more complicated than you would ever imagine. It also gets the case-- be the case that there gets to be a settling of hard feelings between neighbors. And this gets to be if somebody wants a fence so then I'm not going to build one. And so there gets to be when-- when livestock gets back and forth across the fence where they're not supposed to be, that's also the course of hard feelings. And, you know, in the past we've-- we've dealt with legal enforcement in order to be able to get somebody out on the ground and actually do the survey work so they don't get shot as the fence is being built that somebody doesn't want built. So all of these things in fence law get to be very complicated. So it is an area of law that-- that is not simple.

**HALLORAN:** OK. Thank you, Mr. Hansen. Any further questions? Seeing none, thank you, sir.

**JOHN HANSEN:** Thank you very much.

**HALLORAN:** Additional opposition for LB655? Additional opposition? Seeing none, anyone in the neutral for LB655? Seeing none, since the good senator is not here and his fine aide has waived, we will do that. So letters to be put in the record: Michael Drain, Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation system; Michael Drinnin and Steve Nelson, Nebraska Cattlemen and Nebraska Farm Bureau as opponents. OK. That concludes LB655. Thank you, everyone. We'll take a couple minutes here for the room to clear. We'll be in Executive Session.