

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE ENERGY AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chair Carl Holmes at 9:00 A.M. on February 18 2011, in Room 785 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except:

Representative Stan Frownfelter-excused
Representative Phil Hermanson-excused
Representative Mike Slattery-excused

Committee staff present:

Matt Sterling, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Cindy Lash, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Corey Carnahan, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Renaë Hansen, Committee Assistant

Conferees Appearing Before the Committee:

Tom Sloan, 45th District
Coleen Jennison, Cox
Patrick Fucik, Sprint
Dina Fisk, Verizon

Others Attending:

Thirty-one including the attached list.

Hearing on:

HB 2050-Concerning utilities; establishing the broadband deployment assistance program.

Matt Sterling, Revisor of Statutes, (Attachment 1) gave an explanation of **HB 2050**.

Proponents:

Tom Sloan, 45th district, (Attachment 2), offered testimony in support of **HB 2050**. He noted that all of the members of the committee do have high speed internet but, he commented that there are many Kansans who do not have high speed internet. He explained to the committee that the revisor of statutes has removed, in a proposed amendment, all language that mentions Kan-Ed (Attachment 3).

Written Proponents:

Harry A. Watts, Kansas Farm Bureau, (Attachment 4), presented written testimony in support of **HB 2050**.

Questions were asked and comments made by Representatives: Annie Kuether, Mike Burgess, Forrest Knox, Don Hineman, Carl Holmes, and Reynaldo Mesa.

Opponents:

Coleen Jennison, Cox Communications, (Attachment 5) spoke to the committee in opposition to **HB 2050**.

Patrick Fucik, Sprint, (Attachment 6), offered testimony to the committee in opposition of **HB 2050**. Mr. Fucik noted that Kansas has the third largest state fund in the nation , behind only California and Texas and it has been growing significantly over the years.

Dina Fisk, Verizon, (Attachment 7), presented testimony in opposition to **HB 2050**. She presented information describing why a broadband deployment mandate is poor public policy.

CONTINUATION SHEET

The minutes of the House Energy and Utilities Committee at 9:00 A.M. on February 18, 2011, in Room 785 of the Docking State Office Building.

Written Opponents:

Several Companies presented written testimony in opposition to **HB 2050**, as follows:

- John Federico, Kansas Cable Telecommunications Association, ([Attachment 8](#))
- Mike Scott, AT&T, ([Attachment 9](#))
- John Idoux, Century Link, ([Attachment 10](#))

Questions were asked and comments made by Representatives: Tom Sloan, Vern Swanson, Don Hineman, Gail Finney, Reynaldo Mesa, Forrest Knox, Mike Slattery, and Carl Holmes.

Jim Gardner, AT&T helped to answer questions the committee asked on COLR (Carrier of Last Resort) and how that differentiates with the use of the KUSF (Kansas Universal Service Funds) for providing telephone service (POTS or Plain Old Telephone Service).

The hearing on **HB 2050** was closed.

Westar Energy handed out information ([Attachment 11](#)) on an open house they will host to meet with customers to discuss and promote a simple savings program that is designed to help customers implement energy efficiency improvements to help them lower their total energy expense.

Representative Tom Sloan asked the committee to reconsider **HB 2143** and handed out ([Attachment 12](#)) language change. Chairman Holmes noted we will not work any bills until Monday.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 21, 2011.

The meeting was adjourned at 10: A.M.