

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE ENERGY AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carl Holmes at 9:00 A.M. on March 15, 2011, in Room 785 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present.

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:

Steve Hahn, AT&T Kansas President  
Tim Holverson, Executive Vice President, Leavenworth-Lansing Area Chamber of Commerce  
Todd Abrajano, Executive Director, Mid-American Communications Alliance  
John Idoux, Kansas Governmental Affairs, CenturyLink  
Jim Graham, President and CEO, Kansas Council on Economic Education  
Debra Aron, PhD, Principal and Managin Director, Navigant Economics  
Steve Pociask, The American Consumer Institute

Others attending:

Thirty eight including the attached list.

Hearing on:

**SubSB72-Telecommunications.**

Matt Sterling, Office of the Revisor of Statutes, (Attachment 1) presented an explanation to the committee on the specifics of the bill that change the current statutes.

Questions were asked and comments made by Representative Tom Sloan.

Proponents:

Steve Hahn, AT&T Kansas President, (Attachment 2), spoke to the committee as a proponent on **SubSB72**. He offered reasons why this legislation is necessary. Additionally, he talked about the changes that would help alleviate problems that exist in the current system that keeps the expansion of broadband from happening.

Tim Holverson, Executive Vice-President, Leavenworth-Lansing Area Chamber of Commerce, (Attachment 3), offered testimony in support of **SubSB72**. He noted the bill is good for jobs, good for consumers, and good for the long term economic health of Kansas.

Todd Abrajano, Executive Director, Mid-American Communications Alliance, (Attachment 4), spoke to the committee in support of **SubSB72**. His organization advocates on behalf of consumers for more choice, better service and affordable cost in the communications marketplace.

John Idoux, Kansas Governmental Affairs, CenturyLink, (Attachment 5), offered testimony in support of **SubSB72** noting the bill continues the transition to market-based regulations for price-cap regulated companies as the competitive landscape in Kansas continues to accelerate. He noted a technical concern that they have with the bill and offered an amendment to the bill.

Jim Graham, President and CEO, Kansas Council on Economic Education, (Attachment 6), spoke to the committee in support of **SubSB72**. He testified in support of free market economic solutions with a fair regulatory environment and believes that approval of appropriate communications rules will result in additional investment in advanced technologies.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

The minutes of the House Energy and Utilities Committee at 9:00 A.M. on March 15, 2011, in Room 785 of the Docking State Office Building.

Debra Aron, Ph.D., Principal and Managing Director, Navigant Economics, ([Attachment 7](#)), gave a presentation to the committee on communication and how the change in communications technologies has affected the economics of the way the world does business. She spent time refuting the report that the KCC presented to the committee on telecommunications on March 8, 2011. She also commented on the forward-looking manner of **SubSB72**. She noted that the current regulatory structure suppresses broadband adoption.

### Written Proponents:

- Rachel Reiber, former KCC commissioner, and Current CLEC Attorney, ([Attachment 8](#))
- Abel Perez, Executive Director, Wichita Hispanic Chamber, ([Attachment 9](#))
- Robert Bugg, Community leader, Topeka, ([Attachment 10](#))
- John Glassman, Executive Director, Douglas County Senior Services Inc., ([Attachment 11](#))

### Neutral:

Steve Pociask The American Consumer Institute, ([Attachment 12](#)), spoke from a neutral position on **SubSB72**. He noted that only when market rivals are provided an opportunity to fully compete can consumers achieve the full benefits of competition.

The committee also received a map of the AT&T Access Line Count, AT&T Deregulated Exchange Line Count, and CenturyLink Access Line Count, ([Attachment 13](#)) from the Kansas Corporation Commission.

Questions were asked and comments made by Representatives: Vern Swanson, Stan Frownfelter, Tom Sloan, Joe Seiwert, Forrest Knox, Mike Burgess, and Carl Holmes.

The hearing on **SubSB50** was suspended until March 16, 2011.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2011.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:54 A.M.