

MINUTES OF THE SENATE UTILITIES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pat Apple at 1:30 p.m. on February 8, 2011, in Room 548-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present:

Matt Sterling, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Cindy Lash, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Heather O'Hara, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Ann McMorris, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Steve Hahn, President, AT&T Kansas
Todd Abrajano, executive director, Mid-American Communications Alliance
Rachel Reiber, former KCC commissioner and current CLEC attorney
Tim Holverson, EVP, Leavenworth/Lansing Area Chamber of Commerce
John Idoux, Centurylink

Others attending: See attached list.

Chair opened the hearing on:

SB 72 – Telecommunications and Price Deregulation

Matt Sterling, assistant Revisor of Statutes, provided an explanation of changes proposed in **SB 72**. (Attachment 1)

Fiscal note for **SB 72** was distributed to the committee and staff. (Attachment 2)

Proponents

Steve Hahn, president, AT&T Kansas, stressed the need for the changes incorporated in **SB 72** in order to remove unnecessary and outdated regulations while maintaining safeguards for rural consumers. (Attachment 3)

Todd Abrajano, executive director, Mid-American Communications Alliance, voiced consumer support for **SB 72**. He presented their findings from a scientific poll with over 500 randomly selected Kansans. He noted a state's regulatory policy can be a huge incentive to new investments. (Attachment 4)

Rachel Reiber, former KCC commissioner and current CLEC attorney, stressed that **SB 72** contains numerous safeguards that protect both consumers and competitors. This bill provides the framework for continuing the implementation of deregulation begun 15 years ago and represents the next logical steps in the transition from a monopoly to a competitive environment. (Attachment 5)

Tim Holverson, EVP, Leavenworth/Lansing Chamber of Commerce, favored **SB 72** because it is good for jobs, good for consumers and good for the long term economic health of Kansas. (Attachment 6)

John Idoux, Centurylink, noted **SB 72** gives carriers the ability to respond to real competitive threats, maintains consumer protection measures and reduces regulatory inefficiencies and costs. At the same time, it maintains critical support for rural high cost areas. (Attachment 7)

Written testimony in support of **SB 72** was provided by the following:

Jim Daniels, retired Boeing executive (Attachment 8)
Ben Vidricksen, former state senator, senior advocate (Attachment 9)
Robert Bugg, community leader, African-American (Attachment 10)
Steve Smith, Chief Financial Officer, Kansas Heart Hospital (Attachment 11)
John Glassman, executive director, Douglas County Senior Services Inc.
and President, The Vantage Pointe Foundation (Attachment 12)
Jim Graham, President and CEO, Kansas Council on Economic Education (Attachment 13)
Abel Perez, executive director, Wichita Hispanic Chamber (Attachment 14)
Amy Noone Frederick, President, the 60 Plus Association (Attachment 15)

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the Senate Utilities Committee at 1:30 p.m. on February 8, 2011, in Room 548-S of the Capitol.

Chair announced the hearing on **SB 72** would remain open and opponents would be called to testify at the meeting on February 9, 2011.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann McMorris
Committee Assistant
Attachments - 15