

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Steve Morris at 10:00 a.m. on January 27, 2000, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present:       Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department  
  Jill Wolters, Revisor of Statutes  
  Nancy Kippes, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative Sharon Schwartz  
Chuck Stones, Kansas Bankers Association  
Bill Fuller, Associate Director, Public Policy Division, Kansas Farm Bureau  
Ron Gaches, Farm Credit Council of Wichita  
Mike Jensen, Executive Vice-President, Kansas Pork Producers Council

Others attending:       (See Attached)

Senator Clark made a motion to approve the minutes for the January 26, 2000 meeting as amended. Senator Umbarger seconded. Motion carried.

Senator Stephens made a motion to introduce a senate concurrent resolution encouraging Congress to pass a moratorium on agribusiness and agricultural mergers and acquisitions. Senator Clark Seconded. The motion carried.

Senator Stephens made a motion to introduce a bill that would enact the beginning farmer tax credit act, as well as a bill that would enact the competitive livestock markets act. Senator Biggs seconded. The motion carried.

Hearing on:

**HB 2527 - concerning state moneys; providing for agricultural production loans**

Representative Sharon Schwartz testified in support of **HB 2527**, stating this bill would establish a linked deposit program to provide agricultural loans. The program would be administered by the State Treasurer (Attachment 1). Representative Schwartz referred to Kansas State Treasurer Tim Shallenburger's written testimony (Attachment 2) that the State Treasurer's Office would be able to absorb any additional cost associated with passage of **HB 2527**.

Chuck Stones, Kansas Bankers Association, testified in support of **HB 2527**. Mr. Stones stated that the Task Force on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Ag Banking believes that linked deposit programs are an important way for some agricultural and rural borrowers to be assisted in securing the capital they need at an affordable cost (Attachment 3).

Bill Fuller, Associate Director, Public Policy Division, Kansas Farm Bureau, appeared before the committee to support **HB 2527**, a program that would provide low interest agricultural production loans for agricultural borrowers during this time of economic stress in farm country (Attachment 4).

Mike Jensen, Kansas Pork Producers Council, provided written testimony and spoke in support of **HB 2527** (Attachment 5). Mr. Jensen stated this bill would make available more capital to the entire agricultural sector, while also sending a clear message from the state government of Kansas that it recognizes the plight of agriculture and is willing to invest in the future of that industry for the good of the

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, Room 423-S of the Capitol,  
10:00 a.m., on January 27, 2000.

state.

Ron Gaches, Farm Credit Council of Wichita, requested that Farm Credit Council Associations be added to the bill so that they could participate in the agricultural production loan program created by **HB 2527**. Mr. Gaches urged favorable consideration of **HB 2527** with this change (Attachment 6).

Several requests were made for more documentation concerning aspects of **HB 2527**. The hearing on **HB 2527** will be continued February 1, 2000.

The next meeting will be February 1, 2000.