

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UTILITIES.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carl D. Holmes at 9:12 a.m. on March 18, 2005 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Judy Morrison - Excused

Committee staff present: Mary Galligan, Legislative Research
Dennis Hodgins, Legislative Research
Mary Torrence, Revisor of Statutes
Jo Cook, Administrative Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

John Federico, Kansas Cable Telecommunications Assn, Topeka, KS
Coleen Jennison, Cox Communications, Topeka, KS
Debbie Schmidt, Sunflower Broadband, Lawrence, KS

Others attending: See Attached List

Coleen Jennison, Director of Government Affairs for Cox Communications, shared their views relating to competition (Attachment 1). Ms. Jennison said that Cox continues to maintain a healthy video market share in Kansas and is moving into the telephony market. They are a facilities based Competitive Local Exchange Carrier. They welcome the challenge to bring further competition to Kansas.

Debbie Schmidt, Director of Telephone Services for Sunflower Broadband, spoke about the company's history and their commitment to providing superior, advanced technology for the latest products and services (Attachment 2).

John Federico, Executive Director of the Kansas Cable Telecommunications Association, addressed the committee on the issues relating to the cable television industry (Attachment 3). Mr. Federico spoke on the issues of deregulation, competition, inequities and Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP).

Ms. Jennison, Ms. Schmidt, and Mr. Federico responded to questions from the committee.

SB 93 - Eminent domain for wind energy projects

Chairman Holmes opened the debate on **SB 93**.

Representative Svaty moved to recommend SB 93 favorable for passage. Representative Mast seconded the motion. Representative Sloan moved to table SB 93. Representative Olson seconded the motion. The motion to table prevailed. Representatives Mast, Svaty, Carter, and Watkins requested their 'no' votes be recorded in the minutes.

The meeting adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

The next meeting is Monday, March 21, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.