

MINUTES OF THE SENATE ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Barbara Allen at 10:40 A.M. on February 3, 2005 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Chris Courtwright, Kansas Legislative Research
Martha Dorsey, Kansas Legislative Research
Gordon Self, Revisor of Statutes Office
Nancy Kirkwood, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Tom Winters, County Commissioner, Sedgwick County
Carlos Mayans, Mayor, City of Wichita
Tom Docking, Wichita Downtown Development Corporation
Richard Taylor, Building and Construction Trade Council of Central and Western KS
Lyndon Wells, chairman-elect, Wichita Area Chamber of Commerce
John Waltner, Mayor, City of Hesston (Regional Economic Area Partnership (REAP))
John Rolfe, Wichita Convention and Visitors Bureau
George Fahnestock, Greater Wichita Area Sports Commission
Kim Henning, volunteer for "Vote Yea" arena
Tony Rangel, Project Architect, Law/Kindgon, Inc.
Jim DeHoff, Exec. Secretary, Kansas AFL-CIO
Wess Galyon, President/CEO, Wichita Area Builders Association
William Moore, Exec VP & Chief Operating Officer of Westar energy and Executive Board Member of the Wichita Area Chamber of Commerce
Kirby Clark, Business Mgr, Sheet Metal Workers Local 29
Ed Wolverton, Wichita Downtown Development Corporation
Bob Hanson, Greater Wichita Area Sports Commission
Tony Utter, Business sector (Utter Commercial Real Estate, Inc.)
Clay Bastian, Business sector (Fidelity financial Corporation)
Don Blasi, Business sector (Wichita Growth Center, PA) & Grassroots
Michael Jameson, Grassroots
Gerald Layman, Grassroots
Steve Grimes, Grassroots
Daniel Lien, Grassroots
Steve Shaad, Grassroots
Greg Sevier, Wichita Independent Business Association
Bernie Koch, VP, Government Relations, Wichita Area Chamber of Commerce
Bud Burke, on behalf of the Cessna Aircraft Company
Karl Peterjohn, Exec. Director, Kansas Taxpayers Network
Duane Sanders, Sedgwick County
John Todd, Wichita
Jerry Winkelman, Wichita
Jim Davis, Business Mgr, Electrical Workers, Wichita
Ronald Kinkor, Wichita
Gary Wright, Wichita
Greg Dye, Wichita
Bob Weeks, Wichita
Mel Lallement, Wichita

Others attending:

See attached list.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Assessment and Taxation Committee at 10:40 A.M. on February 3, 2005 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

Introduction of Bills

Chairperson Allen opened the meeting today asking for bill introductions. Senator Taddiken appeared before the Committee requesting the introduction of a bill that would exempt members of the military from paying taxes on student loan repayments and sign-up bonuses. Senator Jordan made a motion to introduce this bill. Senator Schmidt seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Chairperson Allen then recognized Senator Steineger. He appeared before the Committee requesting the introduction of a bill that would allow local cities or counties to enact an earnings tax for public schools. Half the money would be kept at the local level and the other half would go to the state for redistribution through the school finance formula. Senator Apple made a motion to introduce this bill. Senator Pine seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Chairperson Allen asked if there were any more introductions as this is the last day to introduce bills. None were offered.

Hearing on:

SB 58 - Authorizing countywide retailers' sales tax for Sedgwick County Arena

Chairperson Allen opened the hearing today and addressed the issue of time. She informed the Committee and the conferees that each side (proponents and opponents) would be allowed thirty minutes to speak. Each conferee would be limited to three minutes. Following testimony, the Committee would be able to ask questions for the remaining time. The proponents were given the opportunity to testify first.

Tom Winters, County Commissioner for Sedgwick County, was recognized by Chairperson Allen. He urged the committee to support **SB 58**, which would ratify the vote of the citizens of Sedgwick County. The citizens have voted in favor of a one cent sales tax for thirty months for the construction of a downtown arena in the City of Wichita (Attachment 1).

Carlos Mayans, Mayor for the City of Wichita, was recognized by Chairperson Allen. He testified in support of **SB 58** (Attachment 2).

Tom Docking, representing the Wichita Downtown Development Corporation board of directors, was recognized by Chairperson Allen. He presented testimony in support of **SB 58** (Attachment 3).

Richard Taylor, representing the Building and Construction Trade Council of Central and Western Kansas, was recognized by Chairperson Allen. He testified the council was in favor of **SB 58** (Attachment 4).

Lyndon Wells, Chairman-elect for the Wichita Area Chamber of Commerce, was recognized by Chairperson Allen. He appeared in support of **SB 58** (Attachment 5).

John Waltner, Mayor for the City of Hesston, and the Chair for the Legislative Committee of the Regional Economic Area Partnership (REAP), was recognized by Chairperson Allen. He testified in favor of **SB 58** (Attachment 6).

John Rolfe, President and CEO of the Greater Wichita Convention and Visitors Bureau, was recognized by Chairperson Allen. He testified the Bureau was in support of **SB 58** (Attachment 7).

George Fahnestock, representing the Greater Wichita Area Sports Commission, was recognized by Chairperson Allen. He testified on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Commission in favor of **SB 58** (Attachment 8).

Kim Henning, a volunteer for "Vote Yea" arena, was recognized by Chairperson Allen. She testified in favor of **SB 58** (Attachment 9).

There being no others wishing to testify as proponents, the opponents of **SB 58** were then given their opportunity to testify.

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Karl Peterjohn, Executive Director of the Kansas Taxpayers Network, was recognized by Chairperson Allen. He testified in opposition to **SB 58** (Attachment 10).

Duane Sanders, a private citizen of Sedgwick County, was recognized by Chairperson Allen. He appeared in opposition to **SB 58** (Attachment 11).

John Todd, a private citizen of Wichita, was recognized by Chairperson Allen. He testified against **SB 58** (Attachment 12).

Ronald Kinkor, a private citizen of Wichita, was recognized by Chairperson Allen. He testified in opposition to **SB 58** (Attachment 13).

Mel Lallement, a private citizen of Wichita, was recognized by Chairperson Allen. He testified against **SB 58** (Attachment 14).

The following people submitted written testimony.

Proponents:

Tony Rangel, Project Architect, Law/Kingdon, Inc. (Attachment 15)

Jim DeHoff, Exec. Secretary, Kansas AFL-CIO (Attachment 16)

Wess Galyon, President/CEO, Wichita Area Builders Association (Attachment 17)

William Moore, Exec VP & Chief Operating Officer of Westar energy and Executive Board Member of the Wichita Area Chamber of Commerce (Attachment 18)

Kirby Clark, Business Mgr, Sheet Metal Workers Local 29 (Attachment 19)

Ed Wolverton, Wichita Downtown Development Corporation (Attachment 20)

Bob Hanson, Greater Wichita Area Sports Commission (Attachment 21)

Tony Utter, Business sector (Utter Commercial Real Estate, Inc.) (Attachment 22)

Clay Bastian, Business sector (Fidelity financial Corporation) (Attachment 23)

Don Blasi, Business sector (Wichita Growth Center, PA) & Grassroots (Attachment 24)

Michael Jameson, Grassroots (Attachment 25)

Gerald Layman, Grassroots (Attachment 26)

Steve Grimes, Grassroots (Attachment 27)

Daniel Lien, Grassroots (Attachment 28)

Steve Shaad, Grassroots (Attachment 29)

Greg Seuier, Wichita Independent Bs Assn. (Attachment 30)

Bernie Koch, Wichita Chamber of Commerce (Attachment 31)

Bud Burke, private citizen. (Attachment 32)

Opponents:

Jerry Winkelman, private citizen Wichita (Attachment 33)

Jim Davis, Business Mgr, Electrical Workers Wichita (Attachment 34)

Gary Wright, Wichita (Attachment 35)

Greg Dye, Wichita (Attachment 36)

Bob Weeks, Wichita (Attachment 37)

There being no others to testify on **SB 58**, Chairperson Allen closed the hearing.

Chairperson Allen informed the Committee it would be on call next Monday, February 7, 2005.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.