

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE UTILITIES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carl Holmes at 9:00 A.M. on February 20, 2006 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Mary Galligan, Kansas Legislative Research
Dennis Hodgins, Kansas Legislative Research
Mary Torrence, Revisor's Office
Renaë Hansen, Committee Secretary
Heather Klausen, Research Intern

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative Annie Kuether
Carol McDowell, Tall Grass Rancher Association
Dave Springe, CURB
Representative Tom Sloan
Paul McCoy, Chief Operating Officer, Trans-elect, inc.
Tom Stuchlik, Executive Director Transmission Services, Westar
Larry Holloway, Chief of Energy Operations, KCC
Representative Tom Hawk
Bruce Sneed
Charles Benjamin, Kansas Sierra Club
Phil Wages, KEPCO
Dave Holthaus, KEC
Mark Schreiber, Manager Government Affairs, Westar

Others attending:

See attached list.

Hearing on:

HB 2932 **Jurisdiction of the state corporation commission over certain utilities.**

Representative Annie Kuether presented testimony (Attachment 1), on **HB 2932** and why changes in the law would be good for the state of Kansas in not allowing all private companies to come into Kansas and have the power of eminent domain.

Carol McDowell, Tall Grass Rancher Association, (Attachment 2), presented testimony with five attached appendixes, in support of **HB 2932.**

Questions were asked by Representatives: Tom Sloan, Carl Holmes, Melody Miller, and Tom Hawk.

The hearing on **HB 2932** was closed.

Hearing on:

HB 2926 **Creation of an independent electric transmission company in Kansas.**

Representative Tom Sloan presented testimony (Attachment 3), in favor of **HB 2926**, allowing for the development of a more robust transmission system in Kansas.

Paul McCoy, Chief Operating Officer, Trans-Elect, Inc., (Attachment 4), presented a statement in support of **HB 2926.** Additionally, he gave some background on his company and how it has been aggressive in helping other areas of the country move forward in additional transmission endeavors.

Tom Stuchlik, Executive Director Transmission Services, Westar, (Attachment 5), presented testimony in opposition to **HB 2926.**

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Utilities Committee at 9:00 A.M. on February 20, 2006 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

Larry Holloway, Chief of Energy Operations, KCC, (Attachment 6), also in opposition to **HB 2926**.

Questions were asked and comments were made by Representatives: Carl Krehbiel, Lynne Oharah, Annie Kuether, Melody Miller, Tom Sloan, Carl Holmes, Tom Hawk, and Don Myers.

The hearing on **HB 2926** was closed.

Hearing on:

HB 2934 **Weatherization, energy efficiency and energy conservation programs; imposing charges on electric and natural gas sold to consumers.**

Representative Tom Hawk presented testimony, (Attachment 7), in favor of **HB 2934**.

Bruce Sneed, Manhattan, Kansas, presented a statement, (Attachment 8), as a proponent to **HB 2934**. He explained how the bill creates a funding mechanism and two state funds which will be used to address energy conservation through the state weatherization program in the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation, and energy efficiency technical assistance through the state corporation commission.

Charles Benjamin, Kansas Sierra Club, (Attachment 9), provided a statement why **HB 2934** will be good for the citizens of Kansas.

Dave Springe, CURB, (Attachment 10), presented testimony in opposition to **HB 2934**, as this bill places a new tax on electric and natural gas customers in the state to fund the state weatherization fund and the energy efficiency technical assistance fund.

Phil Wages, KEPCO, (Attachment 11), presented testimony standing in opposition to **HB 2934**, for several reasons set forth in their testimony.

Dave Holthaus, KEC, (Attachment 12), presented opposition testimony on **HB 2934**.

Mark Schreiber, Manager Government Affairs, Westar, (Attachment 13), presented testimony on **HB 2934** that was neutral to the proposed legislation.

Norma Phillips, Kansas Housing Resources Corporation, (Attachment 14), presented testimony that supports **HB 2934** and other efforts by the legislature to further the efforts of energy efficiency and conservation programs.

Questions were asked and comments given by Representatives: Carl Krehbiel, Tom Sloan, Tom Hawk, Carl Holmes, Melody Miller, Peggy Mast, and Oletha Faust-Goudeau.

Hearing on **HB 2934** was closed.

Hearing on:

HB 2927 **Effective date of certain municipal franchise fees in annexed areas.**

Mark Schreiber, Manager Government Affairs, Westar, (Attachment 15), presented testimony in favor of **HB 2927**, noting how it provides for a defined starting point for the collection of municipal franchise fees by the electric or gas utility for an annexed area.

Questions were asked by Representative: Tom Sloan and Carl Holmes.

Hearing on **HB 2927** was closed.

Chairman Holmes noted that tomorrow would be the last day to work bills before the turnaround deadline. He asked committee members if there were any bills out there besides these four bills that were of interest by anyone to be worked on by the committee. None were suggested.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Utilities Committee at 9:00 A.M. on February 20, 2006 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday February 21, 2006.

Meeting Adjourned.