

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman John Faber at 3:30 P.M. on March 14, 2007, in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Light - excused

Committee staff present:

Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Emalene Correll, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jason Thompson, Revisor of Statutes Office
Florence Deeter, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative Tom Sloan, District 45
Craig Phillips, Chief of Conservation and Restoration Branch of Environmental Division, Ft. Riley
Stanley Rasmussen, Regional Counsel, United States Army Central Regional Environmental Office
Roxanne Miller, Executive Director, Kansas Land Trust
Mike Beam, Sr. Vice President, Kansas Livestock Association

Others attending:

See attached list.

It was noted that committee minutes dated February 28 and March 1, 2007, were sent electronically and, by consensus, were approved as written on March 9, 2007.

Hearing on HB 2572 - Establishing the farm and ranch land protection grant program

Jason Thompson, Revisor of Statutes Office, briefed the members on **HB 2572**, stating that the bill is similar to **HB 2147**, concerning establishment of a farm and ranch land protection grant program. He explained the new components in three sections of the bill giving clarification regarding contiguous lands.

Representative Tom Sloan, District 45, said **HB 2572**, funded by the Appropriations Committee, outlines a narrower margin in establishing a partnership with military facilities' managers involved with land conservation. He said that cities are not permitted to use eminent domain in areas where the state has conservation easement already established. Representative Sloan concluded by saying that this bill promulgates voluntary participation in the program; there is never any condemnation of owner's land for use by the military (Attachment 1).

Craig Phillips, Chief of Conservation and Restoration Branch of Environmental Division, Ft. Riley, speaking as a proponent of **HB 2572**, said that the legislature's support of conservation easements assist's the military in maintaining the boundaries of Ft. Riley (Attachment 2). Mr. Phillips included in his testimony on the bill three specific areas of concern and offered suggestions for change (Attachment 3).

Stanley Rasmussen, Regional Counsel, United States Army Central Regional Environmental Office, a proponent of **HB 2572**, indicated that buffer and conservation areas allow space for military installations to defer development in and around training and testing fields. Mr. Rasmussen said that the bill advocates cooperation with communities and landowners to retain the original purposes of the land under consideration (Attachment 4).

Roxanne Miller, Executive Director, Kansas Land Trust (KLT), speaking in opposition to **HB 2572**, said that KLT supports the principles in this bill, but has concerns with two new sections (Attachment 5). She said limitations or restrictions by the state regarding eligibility of landowners could adversely affect the Army Compatible Use Buffer program.

Mike Beam, Sr. Vice President, Kansas Livestock Association (KLA), holding a neutral position on **HB 2572**, said doing so would allow further investigation regarding the proposed provisions, in the event an interim

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committee is established. He suggested the study could produce a more efficient and effective conservation easement program that would be administered by the State Conservation Commission (Attachment 6).

Written testimony was submitted by Greg Foley, Executive Director, State Conservation Commission as a proponent of **HB 2572** (Attachment 7).

Steve Swaffar, Director of Natural Resources, Kansas Farm Bureau, submitted written testimony stating a neutral position on **HB 2572** (Attachment 8).

The Chairman closed the hearing on **HB 2572**.

The Chairman called for consideration of **SB 188 - Wildlife restoration fund**. Representative Svaty moved to pass favorably SB 188 and place it on the Consent Calendar. Representative Grange seconded, the motion passed.

The Chairman called for consideration of **SB 89 - Republican River, disposition of litigation moneys**. Upon request from a committee member, the Chairman allowed additional time for further study of the bill.

The Chairman called for a report from the sub-committee on **SB 146**. Jason Thompson, Revisor of Statutes Office, outlined provisions regarding the sunset period, the reduction from 75% to 50 % on the current grant program regarding the recycling of waste tires, and the \$1.00 per-ton fee at tire mono-fills and transfer stations. Mr. Thompson indicated that a balloon amendment would be presented to members at a subsequent meeting.

The committee was advised of new emerging technology in the tire recycling industry by Representative Knox, who stated that equipment is being developed that will provide both centrifugal and magnetic removal of unwanted particles in recycled tires. Retaining this information for provision in the bill could be of benefit to the industries involved in recycling.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2007.