

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 6, 2007, in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

All members were present.

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:

Jenny Erdman, Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce
Bob Walker, Director of Communications, Bayer Animal Health

Others attending:

See attached list.

Hearing on SCR 1606 - Animal Health Corridor

The Chairman opened the hearing on **SCR 1606** - animal health corridor, welcoming Jenny Erdman, Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, to speak to members regarding the initiative of the Animal Health Corridor. She introduced Bob Walker, Director of Communications of Bayer Animal Health, who briefed the members on the purpose of animal health, the history of the initiative, and the vision and goals of the organization. Mr. Walker indicated that the Kansas City area has the largest market share of the industry worldwide. He said that fifty companies in the animal health industry have established headquarters in Kansas City. Mr. Walker envisions numerous opportunities for research, production, and growth for the centralized area extending from Kansas City to St. Joseph and west to Manhattan, Kansas (Attachment 1).

The Chairman closed the hearing on **SCR 1606**.

The Chairman opened the hearing on **SB 19** - County fairs levy for building, grounds and maintenance. Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department, briefed the members stating that Hodgeman County Commissioners had expressed their concerns regarding the limited amount of money that could be raised for facilities needing repair and maintenance. He said that currently the law limits their funds to \$3,000. Mr. Gilliland reported that a 2006 interim Special Committee of Agriculture and Natural Resources made a recommendation of a \$33,000 cap for repair and maintenance costs. He noted that Hodgeman County presently operates under **K.S.A. 2006 Supp. 2-131d** and that **SB 19** is an amendment to repeal that statute.

Following discussion among the members, the Chairman closed the hearing on **SB 19**.

The Chairman called for consideration of **SB 249** - cities and counties; creation of natural resource districts. Representative Svaty moved to pass favorably SB 249; Representative Feuerborn seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The Chairman announced a sub-committee to be appointed for further study of **SB 146**.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 7, 2007.