

Approved: March 1, 2012

(Date)

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE ENERGY AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Carl Holmes at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, January 10, 2012 in 785 of the DSOB.

All members were present except:

Representative Stan Frownfelter-excused
Representative Mike Slattery-excused

Committee staff present:

Cindy Lash, Kansas Legislative Research
Brian Turnbull, Kansas Legislative Research
Mike Sterling, Kansas Revisor of Statutes
Renaë Hansen, Committee Administrative Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Brian Boisvert, Wilson Communications
Sharon Wenger, Legislative Research

Others in attendance:

Fifty-two, including the attached list.

Introduction of Bills:

Matt Sterling gave the committee an overview of the proposed bills thus far submitted.

Mike Burgess moved to introduce these bills, seconded by Representative Tom Sloan. Motion Carried.

Overview of FCC Reform of the Universal Service Fund

Brian Boisvert, Wilson Communications, ([Attachment 1](#)), came before the committee to speak about the FCC's reform of the USF and ICC. Mr. Boisvert gave a historical overview and timeline on the National Broadband Plan and the Mobility Fund NPRM. He gave a high level review of what did happen and what did not happen with the new FCC orders that were extended

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in 2010 and 2011. He then explained to the committee an overview of the Universal Service Fund, speaking specifically about the: rate of return carriers, price cap carriers, CAF mobility, remote areas fund, and identical support rule. He spent time reviewing where we stand today and what we need to do to move forward and the concerns with the current projected plan. He spoke about the ICC reforms that will be occurring. Additionally, he spoke about some rural concerns with the plan and specifically about the unfunded mandates for this demographic of the public. He shared important comment date deadlines for the USF and ICC.

Questions were asked and comments made by Representatives: Annie Kuether, Tom Sloan, and Reynaldo Mesa.

Reports of Interim and Special Committees

Kan-Ed Study Committee

Sharon Wenger, Legislative Research, (Attachment 2), brought before the committee the 2011 Kan-Ed study conducted by the Kan-Ed study committee. She gave the committee a historical overview of Kan-ed. The report includes conclusions and recommendations by the committee. Included was a circuit bandwidth of the Kan-Ed connection using the AT&T service. Additionally, a scope statement for the Kansas Board of Regents audit was included with the presentation.

Questions were asked and comments made by Representatives: Don Hineman, and Tom Sloan.

Joint Committee on Energy & Environmental Policy

Cindy Lash, Legislative Research, (Attachment 3), spoke to the committee about the topics covered in the Joint Committee on Energy and Environmental Policy during the legislative interim session. Those included: abandoned oil and gas well plugging program, water issues, ownership of pore space, hydraulic fracturing, energy related research from Kansas universities, American Recovery and Renewal Act (ARRA), effects of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations, electric and gas utility issues, wind and transmission development, renewable portfolio standards, energy tax incentives and innovative landfill programs.

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Questions were asked and comments made by Representative Don Hineman.

Several other bill requests were mentioned.

Representative Annie Kuether moved to accept those bill requests, seconded by Representative Stephen Alford. Motion carried.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2012 at 9:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

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