

MINUTES OF THE SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
JOINT WITH THE SENTATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE AND
HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The joint meeting was called to order by Chairman Larry Powell, House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, January 11, 2012, in Room 783 Docking State Office Building.

All members were present, except:

Senator Steve Morris-excused
Senator Steve Abrams-excused

Committee Staff Present:

Tamera Lawrence, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
David Wiese, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Abigail Boudewyns, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Stephanie Gray, Committee Assistant

Presenter: U. S. Congressman Tim Huelskamp

Others attending:

See attached list.

Representative Larry Powell turned the introduction of Congressman Tim Huelskamp over to Senator Ostmeyer.

Congressman Huelskamp is on the Washington Agriculture Committee. Kansas has had a long history with this committee. Last fall there was discussion on the Super Committee. In this committee they began to talk about the farm bill, which was discussed for an hour. He also described the free trade agreements with Korea, Panama, and Columbia as a positive. Kansas was a big winner in these agreements. These countries want to buy our wheat, beef, and corn. Korea will be an area of growth for decades to come. Vietnam was also interested in pork products for the future. A Vietnam ambassador came to Washington County to see how pork was produced here.

Also, the farm bill debate over crop insurance will continue. Senator Pat Roberts is working very hard on that issue. Last fall the failure of MF Global was a disappointment. Farmers need protection of risk management.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the Senate Natural Resources Committee Joint with the Senate Agriculture Committee and House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, January 11, 2012, in Room 783 Docking State Office Building.

In the Super Committee he introduced restrictions to the Farm Act about child labor laws. There is a need to reduce regulations. He will keep an eye on regulations. Despite government farm regulations, a big positive trend for Kansas is that many young people are moving back to their family farms in many counties.

The speaker took questions from the floor.

Meeting was adjourned 9:00 a.m.