

MINUTES OF THE SENATE UTILITIES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pat Apple at 1:30 p.m. on January 24, 2012 in Room 548-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:  
Senator Jay Emler, excused

Committee staff present:

Matt Sterling, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Tamera Lawrence, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Cindy Lash, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Heather O'Hara, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Ann McMorris, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Patti Petersen-Klein, Kansas Corporation Commission  
Christine Aarnes, Kansas Corporation Commission  
John R. Idoux, State Governmental Affairs, CenturyLink  
Ann Hughes, Director-Regulatory, AT&T Kansas

Others attending: See attached list.

Introduction of Bills

Moved by Senator Kultala, seconded by Senator Petersen, a bill be drafted to cover 911 technical fix. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Senator Taddiken, seconded by Senator Petersen, the minutes of the meetings of the Senate Utilities Committee held on January 10, 2012; January 11, 2012; January 12, 2012; January 17, 2012; and January 18, 2012, be approved. Motion carried.

Presentation on new FCC Order: USF Reform and Intercarrier Compensation Reform

Patti Petersen-Klein, Executive Director, Kansas Corporation Commission, addressed three issues concerning the Kansas Universal Service Fund. She summarized the actions being taken by KCC. (Attachment 1)

Christine Aarnes, Chief of Telecommunications, Kansas Corporation Commission, discussed the long-term goals of the FCC to develop a National Broadband Plan (NBP). She reviewed various aspects of the FCC Order which was released November 18, 2011. This review included principles and goals, budget, price cap reforms, rate of return reforms, CAF mobility fund, support rule for CETCs, immediate ICC reforms, comprehensive ICC reform, new recovery mechanism, VoIP traffic, and intercarrier compensation for wireless traffic. (Attachment 2)

John R. Idoux, State Governmental Affairs, CenturyLink, addressed the key components of the FCC's order specific to CenturyLink in Kansas and also listed the actions the Kansas Legislature and the Kansas Corporation Commission could undertake at this time. (Attachment 3)

Ann Hughes, Director of Regulatory Affairs, AT&T Kansas, noted the FCC order took an important step in transforming the concept of universal service. There are many important details to be worked out, and the FCC encourages state legislators and regulators to review their current regulations and policies governing traditional wireline voice service. (Attachment 4)

Adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann McMorris, Committee Secretary  
Attachments - 4