

MINUTES OF THE SENATE UTILITIES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pat Apple at 1:30 p.m. on February 10, 2011, in Room 548-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:  
Sen. Jay Emler, excused

Committee staff present:  
Matt Sterling, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Heather O'Hara, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Ann McMorris, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:  
Christine Aarnes, Kansas Corporation Commission  
Toni Wellshear, AARP

Others attending: See attached list.

Chair continued the hearing on:  
**SB 72 – Telecommunications and Price Deregulation**

Opponents

Christine Aarnes, Chief of Telecommunications, Kansas Corporation Commission, discussed the findings in the 2011 KCC Report on Price Deregulation and the recommendations regarding **SB 72**. In conclusion, she noted the absence of solid evidence of effective, sustainable competition and in an effort to preserve and promote the public policy goals embedded in the Telecommunication Act of 1996, the Commission recommended **SB 72** be rejected. (Attachment 1)

Toni Wellshear, AARP, stressed that AARP opposes **SB 72** because it will allow telephone companies to raise rates for service where there is little competition and eliminate necessary consumer protections. Overall, **SB 72** fails to provide a meaningful benefit to consumers. (Attachment 2)

The Chair announced that due to the lack of time to hear the testimony of all the opponents, the hearing on **SB 72** will be left open and continued on Monday, February 14, 2011.

The report on GN Docket No. 09-47; GN Docket No. 09-51; and GN Docket No. 09-137 before the Federal Communications Commission was distributed to the committee. (Attachment 3)

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann McMorris  
Committee Assistant

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