

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE AGRICULTURE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Taddiken at 8:30 a.m. on February 13, 2006 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Steve Morris- excused  
Ralph Ostmeyer- excused  
Derek Schmidt- excused

Committee staff present:

Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research  
Lisa Montgomery, Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Judy Seitz, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Constantine Cotsoradis, Kansas Department of Agriculture  
Duane Simpson, Kansas Grain & Feed Association  
Dennis Hupe, Kansas Soybean Association  
Sue Schulte, Kansas Corn Growers Association

Others attending:

See attached list.

Minutes for the February 7 and 8 meeting were handed to Committee members for review and action later in the meeting. Chairman Taddiken said the agenda will be revised. Tomorrow hearings will be held on:

**SB 542—Creation of the equine industry research and promotion board;**

**SB 532—Repealing the tax levies for fair association buildings and grounds and**

**SR 1809—Congratulating and commending the Kansas Pork Association on its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.**

On Wednesday there will be hearings on:

**SB 543—Creation of the Kansas ethanol council and**

**SB 544—Motor-vehicle fuel taxation, rates, ethanol blends**

Hearings on **SB 500—Raises phytosanitary fees** were opened.

Constantine Cotsoradis spoke in favor of **SB 500** (Attachment 1). He said the USDA currently does not charge a fee for federal phytosanitary certificates but is proposing a \$16.00 fee for each certificate. This bill would increase the maximum fee rate to a level that factors in the current rate, plus any additional charge that the USDA levies.

Mr. Cotsoradis stood for questions.

Duane Simpson offered testimony in support of **SB 500** (Attachment 2). He stated that the KDA should be able to pass this fee along.

Hearings on **SB 500** were closed.

Hearings on **SCR 1620—Urging support of “25 by 25”** were opened.

Dennis Hupe spoke in support of **SCR 1620** (Attachment 3). He stated that it would provide agriculture with increased farm income, added value uses, alternative enterprises and more productive uses of marginal lands.

Mr. Hupe stood for questions.

Sue Schulte testified in support of **SCR 1620** (Attachment 4). She said that if the goal that by the year 2025, 25% of our energy would come from American agriculture is reached, Kansas agriculture will see great benefits.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Agriculture at 8:30 a.m. on February 13, 2006 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

Ms. Schulte stood for questions.

Chairman Taddiken noted there is written testimony in favor of **SCR 1620** from Brad Harrelson (Attachment 5). He also handed out a Power Point presentation from the Energy Work Group, titled "American Agriculture: Powering the Future" (Attachment 6). One of the founders of the group, Dr. Barry Flinchbaugh, will speak to the Committee on March 15.

Hearings were closed on **SCR 1620**.

Senator Bruce made a motion that SCR 1620 be adopted. Senator Francisco seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Discussions were held on SB 500. A motion was made by Senator Bruce to add the word "fee" on line 23 between the words "any" and "amount". Motion was seconded by Francisco. There was no discussion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Senator Francisco to pass SB 500 as amended. Motion seconded by Senator Bruce. Motion carried

Senator Bruce moved to approve the minutes of the February 7 and 8 meeting; seconded by Senator Pine. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:03 a.m.

The next meeting is Tuesday, February 14, 2006.