

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Karin Brownlee at 8:30 A.M. on January 22, 2008 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Jay Emler- excused  
Laura Kelly- excused  
Jean Schodorf- excused

Committee staff present:

Jennifer Thierer, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Kathie Sparks, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Norm Furse, Revisor of Statutes  
Jason Long, Revisor of Statutes  
Jackie Lunn, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Stan Ahlerich, Kansas, Inc.

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairperson Brownlee welcomed Stan Ahlerich from Kansas Inc. to the meeting and stated he has done a tremendous job leading a strategic planning effort over the last few months and has been very thorough. She introduced Mr. Ahlerich to give his testimony (Attachment 1) and to review the *Leveraging our Foundations and Designing the Future: A Kansas Economic Renaissance, The 2007 Kansas Economic Development Strategic Plan*, (on file in the Senate Commerce Committee Assistant's office) and the *Indicators of the Kansas Economy (IKE)*, (Attachment 2) (on file in the Senate Commerce Committee Assistant's office) )

Mr. Ahlerich stated that the Strategic Plan is the result of a year long process, driven by sound, fundamental research and tested with business input throughout the state. Kansas needs to prepare for the future, the state will notably increase personal and business wealth and improve our quality of life by focusing on our inherent and emerging strengths. He stated there are nine strategic planning priorities: Manufacturing-Aerospace and General; Rural Development and Agriculture; Bioscience; Energy and Natural Resources; Business and Tax Climate; Workforce Development; Technology and Innovation; State Image/Branding.

Mr. Ahlerich referred the Committee to the 2007 Kansas Economic Development Strategic Plan and began to highlight on a few of 43 strategies. Mr. Ahlerich made reference to universal expensing as one of the strategies and stated that Dr. Dr. Art Hall would come before the Committee later this week with more information on that for the Committee. During the review there was discussion with the Committee regarding the aerospace industry, rural development, boradband in rural Kansas, and workforce development. Due to the time restraint, Mr. Ahlerich was unable to complete his review and Chairperson Brownlee asked if Mr. Ahlerich was available to return to the meeting tomorrow morning and finish up. Mr. Ahlerich stated he will be available for tomorrow's meeting.

Chairperson Brownlee adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a.m. with the next meeting scheduled for tomorrow, January 23, 2008 at 8:30 a.m. in room 123 S.