

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE ENERGY AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carl Holmes at 9:00 a.m. on February 3, 2009, in Room 783 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Mary Galligan, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Cindy Lash, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Renaë Hansen, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Tom Thompson, Sierra Club
Nancy Jackson, CEP
Mark Schreiber, Westar
Paul Snider, KCPL
Kimberly Gencur, Wind working groups.
Philo Wages, KEPCo
Earl Watkins, Sunflower
Dave Springe, CURB
Alan Pllum , Nature Conservancy

Others attending:

Thirty-four including the attached list.

Hearing on:

HB 2127 - Establishing the renewable energy standards act and net metering and easy connection act, and establishing energy efficiency standards for state buildings.

Melissa Doebelin, Kansas Revisors office explained **HB 2127** section by section to the committee

Questions were asked and comments made by Representative Tom Sloan.

Proponents:

Tom Thompson, Sierra Club (Attachment 1), spoke to the committee in favor of **HB 2127** noting that this legislation would allow Kansas to be more energy efficient keeping energy costs down while decreasing the need to increase energy generation especially that generating from greenhouse gas producing fossil fuels.

Nancy Jackson, CEP (Attachment 2 & 3), presented testimony in support of **HB 2127**. She noted that the historical increase in rates is about 1%. Additionally she handed out (Attachment 4) a brochure that shows the number of long term economic impact from businesses that would be added to the state economy by passage of the bill.

Mark Schreiber, Westar (Attachment 5), offered the committee testimony in support of **HB 2127**. He commented that the start date on this bill is 2010 compared to **HB 2013** and **HB 2038** which is 2012.

Paul Snider, KCPL, (Attachment 6), came forward with supporting testimony for **HB 2127**. He noted the wind generation in which KCPL has invested , and also noted the future wind/renewable energy generation that they are planning to construct (400 MW). He commented about certain improvements and additions that could be made to the legislation to improve it.

Kimberly Gencur-Svaty, The Wind Coalition, (Attachment 7), spoke to the committee in support of **HB 2127** noting the economic benefits that would occur should we move forward with an RPS standard in the state of Kansas. She distributed a map that shows the RPS legislation (Attachment 8) that is in statute across the United States and additionally, noted the states that have impending legislation before their legislature.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Energy And Utilities Committee at 9:00 a.m. on February 3, 2009, in Room 783 of the Docking State Office Building.

Written Proponent:

Sally Howard, Governors Office ([Attachment 9](#)), presented written testimony in support of **HB 2127**.

Trudy Aron, AIA ([Attachment 10](#)), offered written testimony in support of **HB 2127**.

Opponents:

Phil Wages, KEPCo ([Attachment 11](#)), presented testimony in opposition to **HB 2127**. He commented that they were opposed to a certain part of the legislation only. He commented about the sources of energy that KEPCo uses that are from renewable sources.

Earl Watkins, Sunflower ([Attachment 12](#)), offered testimony in opposition to **HB 2127**. He noted that they are in opposition to two pieces of the legislation only. Attached to the testimony were the companies suggested amendments to **HB 2127**.

Dave Springe, CURB ([Attachment 13](#)), came forward with testimony in opposition to **HB 2127**. He noted that they do not support a renewable mandate. Additionally, he offered other changes that would clean up the language of the proposed legislation in **HB 2127**.

Alan Pollum, Nature Conservancy, ([Attachment 14](#)), presented testimony speaking to **HB 2127** noting the portion of the bill they are opposed to. He commented the concern for wildlife is safety that is resulting from increased renewable energy production, which are primarily wind turbines. Included was a map that showed current remaining tall grass prairie compared to the original tall grass prairie areas. He spoke about further unintended consequences to implementing a fast and sturdy renewable portfolio standard.

Neutral:

Erik Stafford, Association of General Contractors ([Attachment 15](#)), offered testimony from a neutral standpoint on **HB 2127** noting some of the concerns for the legislation as it is written.

David Kerr, Hutchinson/Reno County Chamber of Commerce, ([Attachment 16](#)), presented written testimony from a neutral standpoint primarily in support of **HB 2127**.

Questions were asked and comments were made by Representatives: Tom Sloan, Josh Svaty, Tom Moxley, Carl Holmes, Joe Seiwert, Richard Proehl, Milack Talia, Cindy Neighbor, and Don Myers.

Marilyn Jacobson, Secretary of Administration was also available to answer questions to the committee on **HB 2127**.

The hearing on **HB 2127** was closed.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 4, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.