

Approved: March 13, 2002
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UTILITIES.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carl D. Holmes at 9:05 a.m. on February 4, 2002 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Gene O'Brien
Representative Mary Compton

Committee staff present: Robert Chapman, Legislative Research
Dennis Hodgins, Legislative Research
Mary Torrence, Revisor of Statutes
Jo Cook, Administrative Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee: Bill Griffith, Sierra Club
Sarah Schwartz, Kansas Farmers Union
Robert Crangle
Bruce Graham, Kansas Electric Power Cooperatives, Inc.

Others attending: See Attached List

HB 2631 - Organization of cooperative to generate electricity from renewable resources and technologies and to wholesale such electricity

Chairman Holmes opened the hearing on **HB 2631**.

Bill Griffith, appearing on behalf of the Sierra Club, testified in support of **HB 2631** (Attachment 1). Mr. Griffith stated this bill creates an excellent opportunity for Kansans to harvest wind energy for our own benefit.

Sarah Schwartz, on behalf of the Kansas Farmers Union, provided testimony supporting **HB 2631** (Attachment 2). Ms. Schwartz explained that today's farmers may be able to utilize renewable resources from their farms to produce electricity for a demand market and cooperatively market their energy produced through group sales, perhaps leading to negotiation for better buy-back rates.

Robert Crangle, Lincoln, Kansas, addressed the committee as a proponent of **HB 2631** (Attachment 3). Mr. Crangle stated that while passage of this bill would pose no immediate threat to the most conservative energy company, it would open doors for those wishing to plan for energy conservation and a renewable energy economy augmenting our depleting oil and gas economy.

Bruce Graham, Vice President of Member Services and External Affairs for Kansas Electric Power Cooperative, testified in opposition to **HB 2631** (Attachment 4). Mr. Graham told the committee they believe such cooperatives Organize under the same existing statutes used to form KEPCo.

Written testimony, in support of **HB 2631**, was provided by Donna Johnson, President of Pinnacle Technology, Inc. (Attachment 5); Phil Blahut, farm manager in Seward and Harper Counties (Attachment 6); Leslie Kaufman, Associate Director for the Public Policy Division of Kansas Farm Bureau (Attachment 7); and Joseph King, Lawrence, Kansas (Attachment 8).

Mr. Griffith, Mr. Crangle and Mr. Graham responded to questions from the committee.

HCR 5038 - Urging the federal government to act quickly to approve and begin storage of radioactive waste at Yucca Mountain, Nevada

Chairman Holmes re-opened the debate on **HCR 5038**. Representative McClure moved to table HCR 5038. Representative Dillmore seconded the motion. The motion carried.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UTILITIES, Room 526-S Statehouse, at 9:09 a.m. on February 4, 2002.

HCR 5040 - Resolution urging Congress to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to oil and gas exploration and production

Chairman Holmes opened the debate on **HCR 5040**. Representative Myers moved to adopt the resolution. Representative Merrick seconded the motion. The motion carried. Representatives McClure and Dillmore requested their NO votes be recorded in the minutes.

Reports on Wind Energy and the annual Kansas Corporation Commission filings were distributed to committee members. Copies of these reports are available from Legislative Research and the State Library.

The meeting adjourned at 10:17.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2002.