

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 14, 2007 in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:
Bill Light-excused

Committee staff present:
Dennis Hodgins, Kansas Legislative Research
Jason Long, Revisor's Office
Rena Hansen, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:
Alan Pollom, Nature Conservancy
Rose Z. Bacon, Morris County Rancher
Ron Klataski, Kansas Audubon
Terry Holdren, Kansas Farm Bureau
Tom Thompson, Sierra Club
Gordon Homeier, Ellsworth Kansas
Richard Plinsky, Lincoln Kansas

Others attending:
Twenty-six including the attached list.

Hearing On:

HB 2492: Counties; wind power siting approval procedures.

Revisor Jason Long gave a briefing on **HB 2492**.

Proponents:

Alan Pollom, Nature Conservancy, (Attachment 1), presented testimony in favor of **HB 2492**. He cited some of the history of this bill and how it came to be crafted. Included in his testimony was an overview of the National Wind Coordinating Committee.

Questions were asked by Representatives: Vern Swanson, and Josh Svaty.

Rose Z. Bacon, Morris County Rancher, (Attachment 2), offered testimony in support of **HB 2492**. She noted that currently there are no safe guards for an un-zoned county. Her testimony included a statement by Timothy D. Keane, PhD, a news excerpt on fires, an article on wind turbine syndrome, a report on wind power facts from a London research company, and a before and after picture of the Elk River project in Kansas.

Ron Klataski, Kansas Audubon, (Attachment 3), presented testimony in favor of **HB 2492**. He noted why it is important to have a plan for zoning and a formal procedure for local individuals to have a voice.

Written Proponents:

Virgil Huseman, Ellsworth Kansas, (Attachment 4), offered written testimony to the committee on **HB 2492**.

Questions were asked and comments made by Representatives: Josh Svaty, Annie Kuether, Tom Sloan, and Revisor Jason Long.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Energy and Utilities Committee at 9:00 A.M. on February 14, 2007 in Room 241-N of the Capitol.

Opponents:

Terry Holdren, Kansas Farm Bureau, (Attachment 5), offered testimony in opposition to the concepts of **HB 2492**. Kansas Farm Bureau believes this bill prohibits growth of wind in the state of Kansas in any un-zoned counties where this legislation, if enacted, would then become a mandate. Farm Bureau believes that **HB 2406** is a better alternative to **HB 2492**.

Tom Thompson, Sierra Club, (Attachment 6), presented testimony in opposition of **HB 2492**. He noted this bill would allow only a handful of neighbors with a petition and one commissioner to stop a project. Sierra Club also believes that citizens should be able to challenge decisions made by county commissions in such matters, in a fair and democratic manner.

Gordon Homeier, Ellsworth Kansas, (Attachment 7), offered testimony in opposition of **HB 2492**. He noted that this bill represents the narrow agenda of a small minority that wants to halt green technology in Central Kansas.

Richard Plinsky, Lincoln Kansas, (Attachment 8), believes **HB 2492** is an attempt to deny his rights as a private land owner to develop wind energy.

Questions were asked and comments made by Representatives: Peggy Mast, Tom Hawk, Vern Swanson, Tom Moxley, Josh Svaty, Annie Kuether, Peggy Mast, Vaughn Flora, Forrest Knox, and Revisor Jason Long.

Representative Tom Sloan presented recommendations, (Attachment 9), for different siting guidelines than those presented in the bill.

Hearing on **HB 2492** was closed.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 15, 2007.

Meeting adjourned.