

MINUTES OF THE SENATE UTILITIES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jay Emler at 9:30 A.M. on March 6, 2007 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

Committee members absent:

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Mike Corrigan, Revisor of Statutes
Tatiana Lin, Legislative Fellow
Ann McMorris, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

David Springe, Citizens Utility Ratepayer Board
Tom Thompson, Kansas Chapter of the Sierra Club
Trudy Aron, American Institute of Architects

Others in attendance: See attached list

Chairman Emler continued the hearing on

HB 2033 - Certain public utility construction work in progress required to be included in rate base.

Opponents:

David Springe, Citizens Utility Ratepayer Board, opposed the change from a permissive “may” to a mandatory “shall” on page 1, line 31 of **HB 2033**. He argued that this was the single remaining protection for consumers in this statute and by replacing “may” with “shall” this basic protection for consumers was removed. He commented on the new language on page 2, lines 6-10, as retaining KCC discretion to balance the interest of ratepayers and the utility. (Attachment 1)

Tom Thompson, Kansas Chapter of the Sierra Club, opposed **HB 2033** as it gives an unfair favor to coal fired powered plants. It excludes forms of energy like wind and solar and results in unequal footing for other energy generation methods. (Attachment 2)

Questions from the committee on CWIP use with nuclear construction and prudent long term investment. Discussion on definitions in K.S.A. 79-201. Staff was requested to provide explanation of definitions as referred to on page 2, lines 2-5 of **HB 2033**. Chair closed the hearing on **HB 2033**.

Chair opened the hearing on

HB 2485 - Energy conservation; design standards for public buildings; L.E.D. traffic signals

Proponents:

Trudy Aron, Executive Director, American Institute of Architects, stated AIA believes **HB 2485** is a good first step to sustainable design and, more specifically, high performance buildings. (Attachment 3)

Tom Thompson, Kansas Chapter of the Sierra Club, spoke in support of **HB 2485** as a benefit to the State of Kansas from efforts to be more energy efficient. (Attachment 4).

After discussion on the requirement “to have traffic signals use LED lightz”, and the expense cities would have to replace their old fixtures with LED systems, consensus more information was needed before any action could be taken on **HB 2485**. Staff directed to report findings to the committee.

Closed hearing on **HB 2485**.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Senator Apple, seconded by Senator Reitz, minutes of the Senate Utilities Committee held on February 20, 2007, February 21, 2007, February 28, 2007 and March 1, 2007 be approved. Motion carried.

Adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann McMorris, Secretary
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