

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Steve Morris at 10:00 a.m. on February 18, 2000, in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department
 Jill Wolters, Revisor of Statutes
 Nancy Kippes, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Linda Peterson, Marion County Commissioner
Kim Gulley, Director of Policy Development, League of Kansas Municipalities
Marvin Smith, Shawnee County
Ray DeJulio, Franklin County Public Works Administrator
Clinton Harris, Jackson County
Charles Benjamin, Kansas Natural Resource Council and Kansas Chapter of Sierra Club
Riley Walters, Director, Butler County Noxious Weed Department
Robert Abel, Jefferson County, County Weed Directors and Kansas Association of Counties

Others attending: (See Attached)

Senator Clark made a motion to approve minutes from February 14, 15, 16, and 17, 2000 meetings as submitted. Senator Umbarger seconded. The motion carried.

Continued hearing on:

SB 572 - an act enacting the land stewardship by management and control of noxious weeds act

Linda Peterson, Marion County Commissioner, testified in opposition to **SB 572**, stating that she served on the Noxious Weed Law Task Force and she does not support **SB 572** in its present form, but it does have some redeeming qualities (Attachment 1). Ms. Peterson pointed out that Lonie Addis, President of Kansas County Commissioners Association has submitted written testimony (Attachment 2).

Kim Gulley, Director of Policy Development, League of Kansas Municipalities, appeared in opposition to **SB 572** inasmuch as her organization believes that **SB 572** would result in some unintended consequences with respect to rails to trails projects (Attachment 3).

Marvin Smith, Shawnee County farmer, testified in opposition to **SB 572**, stating the procedure of the past for the legislature to determine by statute the effective date and weeds that should be declared noxious is time tested and proven. Mr. Smith suggested it would serve the public to have the opportunity for input before an Interim Committee by all interested parties (Attachment 4).

Ray DeJulio, Franklin County Public Works Administrator, testified in opposition to **SB 572** saying that passage of this bill with required "financial incentives" would result in an unfunded mandate to counties (Attachment 5).

Clinton Harris, Jackson County farmer, opposed **SB 572** because "we already have a workable noxious weed law which provides the rules and regulations necessary to accomplish the proponents' stated concerns" (Attachment 6).

Charles Benjamin, Kansas Natural Resource Council and Kansas Chapter of Sierra Club, testified in opposition to **SB 572**, stating the lack of input into the process of rules and regulations and methods of

CONTINUATION SHEET

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“management” of noxious weeds was particularly troublesome given that in New Section 4 only the Secretary of Agriculture has the authority to determine what plants are to be classified as noxious weeds (Attachment 7).

Riley Walters, Director, Butler County Noxious Weed Department, opposed **SB 572** as the biggest problem being that **SB 572** places a burden on counties in determining that herbicides purchased for noxious weed control are actually used for that purpose and at rates that give long term control, not merely cosmetic control (Attachment 8).

Robert Abel, Jefferson County, County Weed Directors and Kansas Association of Counties, made several points at issue in his opposition to **SB 572** (Attachment 9).

Written testimony was handed out from Alan Steppat in opposition to **SB 572** (Attachment 10).

Written testimony was provided by Gray County (Attachment 11); Darrell Westervelt, Blueville Nursery, Inc. (Attachment 12); and Steve Watts, Gove County Weed Director (Attachment 13); all in opposition to **SB 572**.

Senator Biggs provided written testimony in opposition to **SB 572** from Ed Sass, Director of Leavenworth County Noxious Weed (Attachment 14).

The next meeting will be February 21, 2000.