

MINUTES OF THE SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carolyn McGinn at 8:30 a.m. on March 12, 2009, in Room 446-N of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Kristen Kellems, Revisor of Statutes Office
Jason Thompson, Revisor of Statutes Office
Corey Carnahan, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Alissa Vogel, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Mary Jane Stankiewicz, COO and the Senior Vice President, Kansas Association of Ethanol Processors
Constantine Cotsoradis, Deputy Secretary, Department of Agriculture
Brad Harrelson, State Policy Director, Kansas Farm Bureau

Others attending:

See attached list.

The meeting began with the approval of minutes. Senator Teichman moved to approve the minutes from February 12, 2009. Senator Francisco seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Senator McGinn announced the hearing on **SCR 1610 - Urging the Environmental Protection Agency to authorize use of higher blends of ethanol.**

Kristen Kellems, Revisor of Statutes Office, provided a brief overview of **SCR 1610.**

She stood for questions.

Senator McGinn introduced Mary Jane Stankiewicz, COO and Senior Vice President of the Kansas Association of Ethanol Processors (KAEP), who spoke as a proponent to **SCR 1610.** (Attachment 1) She stated that in the next few years, the demand and need for higher ethanol blends in excess of E10 or mid-level blends will increase. Thus, KAEP wants to encourage the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to be open to new research and data supporting the use of higher blends of ethanol. She informed the Committee of Ford Motor Corporation and the Underwriters Laboratory's support for E15 fuel. KAEP supports **SCR 1610** and the use of E15 for the following reasons: E15 would not harm catalytic converters in older cars or jeopardize the car warranties, higher blends can be run through systems in a safe manner, and by increasing the amount of ethanol in our gas, we reduce the dependence on foreign oil, increase jobs, and improve the environment.

Constantine Cotsoradis, Deputy Secretary of the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA), spoke in favor of **SCR 1610.** (Attachment 2) Mr. Cotsoradis stressed the importance of the ethanol industry in the Kansas' economy and its importance nationwide as the only viable alternative transportation fuel to gasoline today. He stated that the current 10 percent ethanol-blend level that was set by the federal government in 1979 needs to be reevaluated. The KDA supports the use of higher blends of ethanol, because it will boost the struggling ethanol industry, provide more green jobs, and help the country meet the Renewable Fuels Standard.

Brad Harrelson, State Policy Director of the Kansas Farm Bureau (KFB), provided written testimony in support of **SCR 1610.** (Attachment 3)

Senator Teichman moved to pass SCR 1610 out of Committee. Senator Abrams seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Senator McGinn announced the hearing on **HB 2050- Adjusting fees for water rights, applications for term permits for appropriating water.**

Kristen Kellems, Revisor of Statutes Office, provided an overview of **HB 2050.**

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the Senate Natural Resources Committee at 8:30 a.m. on March 12, 2009, in Room 446-N of the Capitol.

She stood for questions.

Constantine Cotsoradis, Deputy Secretary of the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA), spoke in favor of **HB 2050**. (Attachment 4) He provided an overview of the proposed changes to the water appropriation fees including: extending the sunset dates for all water appropriation fees, defining term permits and establishing a fee schedule identical to the current structure, modifications to the application fee through the elimination of the “discount” for certain change applications, a reduced fee for field inspections of watershed dams and industrial groundwater pits, and allowing the refund of an application fee to be modified from the current 150 days to 180 days.

He stood for questions.

Brad Harrelson, State Policy Director of the KFB, provided neutral testimony on **HB 2050**. (Attachment 5)

Senator Teichman moved to pass **HB 2050** out of Committee. Senator Abrams seconded the motion. Discussion ensued.

Senator Teichman and Senator Abrams withdrew their motion to pass **HB 2050** out of Committee.

The hearing was closed on **HB 2050**.

Senator Taddikan presented an amendment to the Committee that would amend **SB 214- requiring the Secretary of Health and Environment to convene a task force to study disposal of florescent lamps and medical sharps**. The proposed amendment would amend K.S.A. 2008 Supp. 65-3424g and repeal the existing section. The new language would allow schools to receive grants to purchase recycled products. The bill also would revoke the sunset clause on the grant program

Senator Taddiken moved to remove the language contained in **SB 214** and replace it with the language included in the amendment. Senator McGinn seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion carried.

Senator Teichman moved to pass **SB 214** out of Committee. Senator Francisco seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 a.m.