

MINUTES OF THE SENATE UTILITIES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Pat Apple at 9:40 A.M. on January 30, 2008 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

Committee members absent: Senator Emler (excused)

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Cindy Lash, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Mike Corrigan, Revisor of Statutes
Ann McMorris, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Ken Frahm, Co-Chair, Kansas Energy Council

Others in attendance: See attached list

Introduction of bills

Senator Lee asked for introduction of a conceptual bill on electric generation.

Moved by Senator Petersen, seconded by Senator Reitz, a conceptual bill on electric generation be introduced. Motion carried.

Kansas Energy Council

Ken Frahm, Co-Chair, Kansas Energy Council, reviewed the composition of the 35 member KEC energy policy advisory group. He said the group includes three House and three Senate members. This policy committee develops background information and policy recommendations on priority topics. The Kansas Energy Plan for 2008 includes 7 recommendations on biomass & biofuels, energy conservation and efficiency and energy education.

Kansas Energy Plan for 2008

Biomass and Biofuels recommendations involve ethanol and biodiesel which are administered by state agencies. The agencies are encouraged to review existing biofuel incentives and report on the effectiveness and potential problems/inefficiencies.

Energy conservation and efficiency recommendations include (1) utility-sponsored programs; (2) residential structures; and (3) public structures. Residential structures involve weatherization assistance (Mr. Frahm suggested a bill should be introduced to cover this); existing low-interest loan program (KEEP) should be expanded; promote adoption of model energy efficiency codes; adopt legislation requiring all new publicly funding buildings to meet minimum energy efficiency standards.

Energy education recommendation - provide funding to KACEE to support energy conservation education in public schools.

2008 committees - He listed the objectives of the Midwestern Governor's Association Committee and Electricity Committee. (Attachment 1)

Copies of the 2008 Energy Plan and the 2008 Kansas Energy Chart Book were distributed to the committee. These are available on KEC website <http://www.kec.kansas.gov/>

Senators Taddiken and Lee commented on their participation on the KEC energy policy committee.

Senator Reitz noted the issues under consideration by KEC were in a timeline and needed to be addressed. Other members inquired about funding for KACEE and about SB 452 not including city and county buildings.

Adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann McMorris, Secretary
Attachments - 1