

## MINUTES OF THE HOUSE UTILITIES AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Steve Alford at 9:00am on Tuesday, January 27, 2015, 582-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Scott Schwab – Excused

Committee staff present:

Linda Borrer, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant

Erica Haas, Legislative Research Department

Craig McCullah, Legislative Research Department

Nick Myers, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

No conferees present

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

### **Possible bill introductions**

No minutes information to display

### **Presentation of Utilities and Telecommunications Lobbyists**

Presentation by Mike Scott of AT&T. Mr Scott gave information and statistics in the areas of how AT&T touches: Jobs and Economic Support in the state of Kansas. He addressed the investment of AT&T in the state and also spoke of the community impact AT&T has. He also gave an overview of how technology is changing the communications market and had a large number of maps to help visualize the information. ([Attachment 1](#))

Following his presentation, Mr Scott stood for questions.

### **Presentation of Utilities and Telecommunications Lobbyists**

Presentation by John Idoux of CenturyLink. Mr Idoux focused on the commitment of CenturyLink to Rural Kansas and the impact they are having. His presentation included statistics of land mass and density of the penetration of the organization as well as the Indian Tribes that are also included in their area.

([Attachment 2](#))

Following his presentation, Mr Idoux stood for questions.

### **Presentation of Utilities and Telecommunications Lobbyists**

Presentation by Patrick Fucik, Sprint. Mr Fucik presented his company as the Wireless Industry Leader. He then moved on to how they are impacting the community and plans for the future. He also gave a clear picture of the extent of coverage by the company. ([Attachment 3](#))

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Following his presentation, Mr Fucik stood for questions.

### **Presentation of Utilities and Telecommunications Lobbyists**

Presentation by Dave Vehslage, Verizon. Mr Vehslage focused on the Kansas Commitment He specifically addressed Verizon's network coverage, reliability and focus on customers, stating that is the foundation for business. . ([Attachment 4](#) )

Following his presentation, Mr Vehslage stood for questions.

### **Presentation of Utilities and Telecommunications Lobbyists**

Jason Smith of SITA after giving some background information, then focused on the Boradband Services and the Wireless Broadband Services. ([Attachment 5](#) )

Following his presentation, Mr Smith stood for questions.

### **Presentation of Utilities and Telecommunications Lobbyists**

Presentation by John Wick, WTC. Mr Wick gave a background of the organization and then gave particular attention to Internet Bandwidth, specifically addressing the 31 Anchor Institutions they serve. He also spoke on the Landline - Misconceptions. ([Attachment 6](#) )

Following his presentation, Mr Wick stood for questions.

### **Presentation of Utilities and Telecommunications Lobbyists**

Presenting as both Cox Communications and Kansas Cable Telecommunications Assoc., Coleen Jennison gave an explanation and background of the Kansas Cable Telecommunications Association. She also briefly addressed the KCTA lobbying team. She also listed many of the investments in both urban and rural companies. ([Attachment 7](#) )

Following her presentation, Ms Jennison stood for questions.

### **Presentation of Utilities and Telecommunications Lobbyists**

Coleen Jennison, as a follow up to the presentation on Kansas Cable Telecommunications Association, Ms Jennison then spotlighted Cox Communications and how they are functioning in the urban and rural areas of Kansas. She also spoke to the issue of broadband speeds, both state and federal government regulations. ([Attachment 8](#) )

Once again, following her presentation she stood for questions.

### **Presentation of Utilities and Telecommunications Lobbyists**

Presentation by Whitney Damron, PIXIUS. Mr Damron explained that PIXIUS is a high-speed wireless Internet service provider that is headquartered in Wichita. He states that although a new player on the

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scene, they are a growing entity that plans to have 25 towers in 2015.

[\(Attachment 9\)](#)

Following his presentation, Mr Damron stood for questions.

### **Presentation of Utilities and Telecommunications Lobbyists**

Presentation by Steven Cowen, Black Hills Energy. Mr Cowen gave a corporation overview by stating that it is a growth-oriented, vertically-integrated energy company. He shared the vision of the company and detailed the customer service they offer. [\(Attachment 10\)](#)

Following his presentation Mr Cowen stood for questions.

### **Presentation of Utilities and Telecommunications Lobbyists**

Presentation by Mick Urban, Kansas Gas Service. Mr Urban started with the overview of Kansas as one of three (3) in the area of gas service. He then progressed to give more details of Kansas service and residential usage. [\(Attachment 11\)](#)

Following his presentation, Mr Urban stood for questions.

### **Presentation of Utilities and Telecommunications Lobbyists**

Presentation by Ron Gaches, ATMOS. Mr Gaches explained the Colorado-Kansas Division... how it serves as a diverse geographic region. He gave a summary of the states for which ATMOS provides service and more specifically the operation centers in Kansas. [\(Attachment 12 \)](#)

Following his presentation, Mr Gaches stood for questions.

### **Presentation of Utilities and Telecommunications Lobbyists**

Presentation by Mike Loeffler, Northern Natural. This was an overview of the network of pipeline facilities, the five (5) storage facilities which included underground and liquified natural gas facilities. He used graphics to help the audience understand and also addressed background and legislation. [\(Attachment 13 \)](#)

Following his presentation, Mr Loeffler stood for questions.

### **Presentation of Utilities and Telecommunications Lobbyists**

Presentation by Ed Cross KIOGA. Mr Cross talked about the industry at the local, state and federal levels of government. He also talked of the cooperative partnerships with a number of other entities and what that means for Kansas. [\(Attachment 14\)](#)

Following his presentation, Mr Cross stood for questions.

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Seeing no other business Chairman Seiwert adjourned the meeting at 10:27