

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Julia Lynn at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, January 22, 2015, 548-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Oletha Faust-Goudeau – Excused

Senator Susan Wagle – Excused

Senator Tom Holland – Excused

Committee staff present:

Reed Holwegner, Legislative Research Department

Debbie Bartuccio, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant

Edward Penner, Legislative Research Department

Chuck Reimer, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Stan Ahlerich, Executive Director, Governor's Council of Economic Advisors

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Possible bill introductions

Chairperson Lynn asked if there were any bill introductions.

Dan Murray, on behalf of Brightergy, requested the introduction of a bill related to the request for proposal statute. He stated he has been working with Norm Furse, Office of the Revisor of Statutes on the language of the bill. There was no objection to the introduction of the bill.

Eric Stafford, on behalf of the Kansas Chamber, requested the introduction of a bill concerning unemployment insurance which would switch Kansas from an arrayed to a fixed system. There was no objection to the introduction of the bill.

Presentation on:

Chairperson Lynn recognized Stan Ahlerich, Executive Director, Governor's Council of Economic Advisors, who provided an update on the Council's activity. The Council was organized by Executive Order in 2011 and includes up to 20 business men and women. He said the environment for opportunity includes the areas of 1) energy and natural resources, 2) military, 3) professional scientific and technical services, 4) manufacturing, 5) bioscience and 6) rural development and agriculture.

[\(Attachment 1\)](#)

The testimony included information concerning:

- Kansas Index of Leading Indicators
- 50 Year Water Vision for Kansas
- Statewide Strategy for Trade/Exports

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Commerce at 8:30 am on Thursday, January 22, 2015, 548-S of the Capitol.

- Statewide Export Outreach Program
- ExportNOW Upcoming Events
- Kansas Export Forum
- Jobs (GDP and Employment)
- Workforce and the Workforce AID Program
- Housing
- Regulatory
- Manufacturing and Reshoring
- The KansasEdge Initiative
- Research

Chairperson Lynn commented she had attended one of the ExportNOW events and encouraged Committee members to attend a future event if there is one in their area. She indicated it was very interesting to see the businesses that attended and their interest level in the information being provided at the event.

Senator Melcher requested additional detailed information be provided to the Committee. His request included a presentation that would outline the percentages of the different sectors of the state GDP in a graphical presentation that looked historically at what those percentages have been over time and where the jobs are. He said there may be sectors that are increasing as a share of GDP but are decreasing in jobs or vice versa. He indicated it is important for the Committee to know where those jobs are, because as Mr. Ahlerich indicated, the state's population has been diminishing and our representation nationally has become smaller every time we reapportion. Additionally, he stated he thought it would be important to look at the state's economy in sectors as to where those GDP contributions are made. Legislators need to understand which portions of that GDP contribution are actually contributing to the funding of government. Senator Melcher said if certain sectors are exempted, we need to know they are exempted, so we can factor that into our decisions as to whether we make investments in those sectors. Finally, he asked for additional information on the cost of the water plan, how it is going to be paid for, and which sector it is going to provide value to. He questioned if the State is going to fund it in general, how do we recover that investment as far as funding for the government. This information would be extremely important for lawmakers to understand before the investments are made.

Senator Baumgardner requested additional information about the technical and community colleges providing the training and the different types of companies the state is partnering with.

Senator Melcher commented Executive Director Ahlerich had talked about the added value that particular industries have, and he requested this be excluded in the follow-up analysis to be presented to the Committee.

Following the conclusion of the question and answer session, Chairperson Lynn adjourned the meeting

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Commerce at 8:30 am on Thursday, January 22, 2015, 548-S of the Capitol.

at 9:23 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 27, 2015.