

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE UTILITIES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Robert Olson at 1:32pm on Wednesday, January 14, 2015, 548-S of the Capitol.

All members were present

Committee staff present:

Michael Welton, Committee Assistant

Matt Sterling, Office of Revisor

Heather O'Hara, Legislative Research

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Warren Fisher, QSI

James Webber, QSI

Olesya Denney, QSI

Scott Lundquist, QSI

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

Senator Olson opened the meeting and called for any possible bill introductions.

### **Possible bill introductions**

There were no bill introduction requests.

### **Presentation by QSI on the Kansas Universal Service Fund Audit Report for the Telecommunications Study Committee**

Senator Olson introduced James Webber with QSI Consulting, Inc. to provide the presentation regarding an audit conducted with the Kansas Universal Service Fund (KUSF) ([Attachment #1](#)).

During questions and comments:

The presenter responded to Senator Francisco by reiterating the importance that rational allocation methods be maintained in order to control the factors that contribute to high levels of KUSF support, while maximizing investment benefits statewide.

The presenter agreed with Senator Olson's comments that since 1997, because of continued investments that services and rates have drastically improved for rural consumers despite longer distances between services. He also asserted that although investment costs per line have been higher in rural areas, the network is more valuable to everyone with everyone on the network.

Senator Petersen urged committee members to take great care to fully understand KUSF support allocations to make sure that the state is moving in the right direction.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Utilities at 1:32pm on Wednesday, January 14, 2015, 548-S of the Capitol.

Senator Olson adjourned the meeting at 2:21pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 15, 2015.