

MINUTES OF THE SENATE UTILITIES COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Stan Clark at 7:00 p.m. on January 24, 2001 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Brownlee, excused

Committee staff present: Ann McMorris, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: See attached list A

Others attending: See attached list B

This was a joint meeting of the House and Senate Utilities Committees for purposes of allowing public comment on natural gas prices. Chair Holmes opened the meeting. Senator Barone welcomed the group of around 100 citizens.

Chair Holmes announced due to the number of persons desiring to speak before the committees there would be a 5 minute time limit for each presentation. 22 persons (List A) spoke regarding inflated monthly gas bills, the effect on their lives and the lives of the neighbors, the commercial problems, and asking for answers on why their gas bills were so high.

Written testimony was provided by: Kim Johnson, JAMS, Pittsburg, KS. (Attachment 1)
Clay Loyd, Topeka (Attachment 2)
Dave Sorrick, S.K.I.L. Resource Center, Parsons (Attachment 3)

Chair Clark closed the meeting by thanking those who had presented testimony and those who had attended. He told the group the House and Senate Utilities Committees were addressing the issues and were working with the Kansas Corporation Commission to conduct an indepth study analyzing the components on your natural gas bill.

Adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann McMorris, Secretary

Attachments - 3

JOINT MEETING SENATE & HOUSE COMMITTEES ON UTILITIES CONFEREE LIST

DATE: January 24, 2001

NAME - <i>PLEASE PRINT</i>	FROM/REPRESENTING
✓ 1 Sonny Scroggins ✓	AARP
2/ R D Jones ✓	Atchison Casting Corp
✓ 3 Al Knickrehm ✓	Overland Park
4 Greg Borth ✓	Meade
5 Anthony Bell —	Topeka
✓ 6 Dave Sorrick ✓	Parsons
7 Deb Abner —	Salvation Army
✓ 8 Kenneth Webber <i>Ken</i> ✓	Berryton
✓ 9 Georgette Lonsinger ✓	Dodge City
10 Nina Skidmore —	Topeka
✓ 11 Marvin Schlieff ✓	Topeka
✓ 12 George Spots ✓	Topeka
✓ 13 Lynn Herrod ✓	Lawrence
✓ 14 <i>Henry Parker</i> ✓	<i>Manhattan</i>
✓ 15 Margaret Fry & Cheryl Allen ✓	Topeka
✓ 16 Rochelle King ✓	Topeka
17 <i>Ram Gordon</i> ✓	<i>Area Agency on Aging - Manhattan</i>
18 <i>Paul Hamilton</i> —	<i>Topeka, KS</i>

A.

JOINT MEETING SENATE & HOUSE COMMITTEES ON UTILITIES CONFEREE LIST

DATE: January 24, 2001

NAME - <i>PLEASE PRINT</i>	FROM/REPRESENTING
19 Diana Swafford ✓	
20 Bob Felix ✓	K.C.KS 6639 Berry Rd,
21 Wm Van Dyke ✓	K.C.Ks.
22 R.J. WILSON ✓	3rd DIST Pittsburg
23 LINDA MEYER ✓	TOPEKA
24 Betty M. Glenn ✓	Topeka, KS.
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JOINT MEETING SENATE & HOUSE COMMITTEES ON UTILITIES GUEST LIST

DATE: January 24, 2001

NAME	REPRESENTING
D Dane	
Nathan A. Wetherick	Topeka KS
Chris Hoffmann	Topeka KS
Kendall	Topeka, KS
Debra Beechle	Topeka KS
David E. Anderson	Topeka KS
Ann Dunkas	Division of the Budget
Earl Ray + Marianne Burns	Silver Lake, Kansas
Dennis V. Melton	House District 108
Bill McCREARY	Wellington, KS
Ward Loyd	Garden City KS Dist 123
Bill Light	Rolla, Mo.
Anthony Hurley	State Senator
DALE BRYAN	SA
Rebecca Emore	Rep. Jim Ryan's office
Mark Keely	"

B.C.

JOINT MEETING SENATE & HOUSE COMMITTEES ON UTILITIES GUEST LIST

DATE: January 24, 2001

NAME	REPRESENTING
Dave Holburn	WR
Serald L Harold	
Mike Hammond	Dept. on Aging
John Aita	KCC
Vicky L Smith	Career Asst. Network YWCA
Nelson Hoof	CRB
Don Johnson	Kansas House
Raman R. Domyer Jr.	Topeka, KS. KHP/Capitol Police
Vaughn L. Flinn	57th Rep
Joel Lettwica	Wellington/KS Jim Ryan's office
John Russell	3201 SE Girard, Topeka KS 66607
Allen Lake	1900 NW Lyman #270 Topeka 66607
Angela Brull	3607 S.W. 29th Terr #2 Topeka, KS. 66614
Edmond O'Felly	1022 SW MacVicar Top KS 66607
Ron Gaches	300 SW 8th Ave Topeka KS
Christi Stewart	Topeka
Sandra Dickison	Topeka

JOINT MEETING SENATE & HOUSE COMMITTEES ON UTILITIES GUEST LIST

DATE: January 24, 2001

NAME	REPRESENTING
Cargyle Weinkold	Head Start families
Juan Holmes	Topeka, KS.
Rosemary Johnson	Topeka
Pretn L. Conner	Shawnee
TOM DAY	KCC
Barbara Ward	Topeka
Cheryl Molter	Topeka
Bob Pst Chom	Chom
Sheryl J. Allen	Topeka
Bennie Good	Topeka
Leonard Masilionis	Topeka
Margaret Masilionis	Topeka
Frances R. Palma	Topeka
Wendy Pugh	Topeka
Howard Anne	Topeka
Janet Brown	TOPEKA
Lizbeth Staltz	Topeka
Jeff W. Gunn	TOPEKA.

JOINT MEETING
SENATE & HOUSE COMMITTEES ON UTILITIES
GUEST LIST

DATE: January 24, 2001

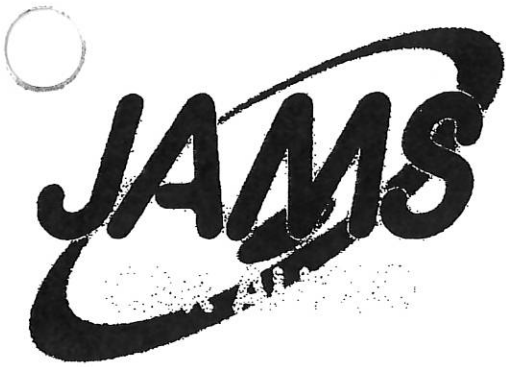
NAME	REPRESENTING
Jim Bartling	Greeley Gas Co
Greg Jones	SouthEast KS. Fuel Marketing
Ed Engel	Topeka
Earl Woodard	Topeka
Helma V. Veasart	Topeka
Chuck Laverat	AARP
Danell Donahue	AARP
Ernest C. Payne	AARP
John Talence	Topeka
David R. Allen	Topeka
John Dwyer	KCC
Bill Long	Topeka
Deanna Belts	Topeka
Scott Vandye	Topeka
Maggie Smith	"
Joseph Holtz	Topeka
Whitney Jayne	KS Gas Service/ONEOK
Paul H. H.	Hon. & Wm. Chitt

BC-

JOINT MEETING
SENATE & HOUSE COMMITTEES ON UTILITIES
CONFEREE LIST

DATE: January 24, 2001

NAME - <i>PLEASE PRINT</i>	FROM/REPRESENTING
37 <i>Lois Bell</i> ✓	<i>Tapeka</i>
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January 23, 2001

913 N. BROADWAY
PITTSBURG KS 66762
(316) 231-8468

Dear Senator Barone,

I am writing in reference to the government's inability to control rising natural gas prices. My personal bill was \$117 in November, \$385 in December, and the most current \$625. My business bill was \$276 in November, \$737 in December, and the most current \$1,013.

When a person has to spend $\frac{3}{4}$ of their income on utilities how are they expected to pay the rest of their bills. We have noticed a considerable slow down in sales just like the rest of the country. Especially the Christmas season.

Since the Federal Government de-regulated everything in the 80's this is just another situation that in my opinion has hurt the citizens of the United States. I would like to request for our state implement a way to control natural gas prices. And being a small business owner, about to close the doors on my store, I would also like to request that the state try to implement some kind of a reserve fund to assist small business owners in our situation.

As I mentioned to you when we spoke, the word on the streets of Pittsburg is there are more business's that can't afford to keep their doors open and will probably close because of their gas bill.

Sincerely,
Kim Johnson

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

Senate Utilities Committee
January 24 2001
Attachment 1-1

Testimony
before a joint meeting of the
Kansas Senate and House utilities committees
Jan. 24, 2001
Room 313 South
Statehouse

Thank you for remembering the citizens in your deliberations concerning astronomically-high natural gas prices.

Fortunately for me, I have enough money in my bank account to keep my house warm for the rest of this winter. But I don't know how many more winters I can weather (no pun intended) at current or higher rates. And I know there are many citizens less fortunate than I.

I don't pretend to understand all the intricacies, but, on the surface, I see some measures that I respectfully ask government at whatever level to consider:

1. Return to regulation. Deregulation, we're finding out, is not working to the good of the people. Could regulation be much worse?
2. Find ways to be sure that the poor don't freeze to death and that lower-income citizens aren't financially ruined -- even if it means holding down on less critical program funding increases.
3. Establish an investigation team -- whether it's KCC staff, the KBI, a legislative committee or a special investigator -- to see if there's any mismanagement or funny stuff like collusion or gouging going on in the natural gas industry.

Again, thanks for hearing us, and may God bless us all as you deal with this life-threatening situation in Kansas. Surely the problem is far too serious to leave entirely to private enterprise.

Clay Loyd

Clay Loyd
319 SW Elmwood
Topeka KS 66606

785/357-1619

*(This submitted as written
in lieu of appearing).*

Senate Utilities Committee
January 24,, 2001
Attachment 2-1

Southeast Kansas Independent Living Resource Center, Inc.

S.K.I.L. Resource Center, Inc.

P.O. Box 1035 1801 Parsons Plaza Parsons, KS 67357-1035

Phone: (316) 421-5502 Fax: (316) 421-3705 TDD: (316) 421-0983 Toll Free: 1-800-688-5616

Joint Utilities Committee

Written testimony presented by Dave Sorrick
Southeast Kansas Independent Living and Resource Center

January 24, 2000

Columbus Office

125 E. Maple
Columbus, KS 66725
(316) 429-3600

Mr. Chairman and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to present testimony. I would like to commend you for heeding the call of your constituents by holding this hearing, as it truly is an issue that affects us all.

Coffeyville Office

806 E. 8th
P.O. Box 497
Coffeyville, KS 67337
(316) 251-5400

Southeast Kansas Independent Living, SKIL as we call it, is a Center for Independent Living. Our administration office is located in Parsons with satellite offices in Pittsburg, Columbus, Coffeyville, Fredonia, Chanute and Yates Center. In calendar year 2000 we provided some type of service to over twelve hundred people. These people are disabled, elderly or folks simply caught in disabling environments.

Pittsburg Office

104 W. 6th
P.O. Box 217
Pittsburg, KS 66762
(316) 231-6780

Within the last 30 days, and on a daily basis, we are receiving phone calls asking for help and guidance with soaring natural gas and utility bills. These calls come not only from our customers, most forced to live on retirement or disability income, but from working families with children.

Chanute Office

1028 S. Santa Fe
Chanute, KS 66720
(316) 431-0757

Realizing that additional assistance would be needed, and not wanting to "reinvent the wheel", we began a bit of research. What we found was a program by the Salvation Army. The program is called Heatshare. You will find attached a copy of the operational guidelines of this program. The guidelines are self-explanatory.

Fredonia Office

419 N. 6th
Fredonia, KS 66736
(316) 378-4881

We prefer this program, as it has no requirements based upon age, disability or financial status. It also has an appeal based upon the fact that every dollar raised remains in the community from which it was raised. It is our thought and hope that this would be an added incentive for local corporations, businesses, and citizens to provide cash donations for Heatshare.

Senate Utilities Committee
January 24, 2001
Attachment 3-1



Assistive Technology
for Kansans
1-800-526-3648



We have recently held organizational meetings involving representatives from the City of Pittsburg, the Southeast Kansas Community Action Program (SEK-CAP), the Crawford County Health Department, the Student Government Association of Pittsburg State University, the Salvation Army, and our agency. Hopefully, a group commitment to raise money for Heatshare will be announced next week via a news conference in the Pittsburg.

It is our hope to gain much needed financial support for Heatshare and, thus, provide relief to local folks from soaring utility costs. Although we realize that this cannot, or will not, resolve the situation for all families, Heatshare will hopefully provide support to some, at least on a short-term basis.

Uncertain of the ultimate solution ourselves, we the citizens of Southeast Kansas, ask you to seek out some type of long-term remedy. We plead with you to continue to seek a long-term remedy, while we attempt to keep people connected and receiving utility services. Action is necessary before the "cold weather rule" expires.

Once again I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to address this committee. Additional information is available by contacting us at the address appearing on our letterhead.

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THE SALVATION ARMY
***HEATSHARE* UTILITY FUEL FUND**
OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

TO QUALIFY FOR ASSISTANCE:

- 1.) Applicants must reside in the designated area where *HEATSHARE* funds are raised unless special funds are available.
- 2.) Assistance is available one time per heating and one time per cooling season.
 - a.) Heating season runs from November through March.
 - b.) Cooling season runs from June through October
- 3.) Applicants need not be income eligible but must be able to show proof of inability to pay utility payment.
- 4.) Applicants who are elderly, handicapped or present shut off notice with children affected will be prioritized when funds are limited.
- 5.) Where available, *HEATSHARE* funds may be issued to help make repairs to energy related equipment such as furnaces, hot water heaters etc. where proof by utility company or inspector proves repair would improve household utility bills.
- 6.) Applicants for *HEATSHARE* shall be able to:
 - A.) Show they are unable to make their utility payment. Salvation Army caseworker shall work up a budget analysis of the applicant's household income and expenses.
 - B.) Show their immediate resources, because of illness, recent unemployment or other unexpected expenses are inadequate to meet their utility payment.
 - C.) Show they have applied for assistance previously from other utility assistance programs such as LEAP, Project Deserve etc. and have been denied.
- 7.) *HEATSHARE* is to remain a program of last resort.

GRANTS: *Will not exceed \$250.00 per household per season.*

TYPES OF ASSISTANCE:

- * *Electric*
- * *Natural Gas*
- * *Wood*
- * *Fuel Oil*
- * *Propane*
- * *Energy-Related Repair (where funds available)*
- * *Weatherization (where funds available)*

NOTE: These are the guidelines. On occasion, due to extenuating circumstances, clients may be given special consideration for assistance.

10/2000

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