

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Karin Brownlee at 8:30 a.m. on January 15, 2003 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: April Holman, Legislative Research Department
Debra Hollon, Legislative Research Department
Norman Furse, Revisor of Statutes
Mitch Rice, Revisor of Statutes
Jodie Anspaugh, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: April Holman, Legislative Research Department

Others attending: See attached list.

Chairperson Brownlee welcomed the committee and staff to the 2003 session. She welcomed the newest member of the committee, Senator Bill Buntin. She also noted the addition of a new committee secretary, Jodie Anspaugh, and a new member from the Revisor of Statutes, Mitch Rice. She also welcomed Norman Furse, April Holman, and Deb Hollon. Chairperson Brownlee led a discussion of what goals committee members have for the committee this session. She distributed the Senate Commerce Committee Mission Statement ([Attachment 1](#)). Chairperson Brownlee gave an overview of the accomplishments of the committee in the 2002 session.

April Holman from the Legislative Research Department gave an overview of "Reports of the Joint Committee on Economic Development to the 2003 Kansas Legislature" ([Attachment 2](#)). Following are the nine topics covered by the joint committee:

- Status of Rural Development Programs: The Committee recognizes that the key to rural economic development is local leadership such as that brought about by the Enterprise Facilitation Program and that the program's intent is the self-sufficiency of the community.
- Interlocal Cooperatives and Competition with Private Business: The Committee did not reach consensus on this topic. The Committee does recommend that the education committees of both houses review the activities of the Kansas Education Center at Greenbush in regard to the sale of computer software services.
- Workplace Safety: The Committee expressed concern with the costs of initiating an OSHA type program since the costs could be detrimental to the financial situation in Kansas.

CONTINUATION SHEET

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- **Unemployment Compensation:** The Committee has concluded that, since the Employment Security Advisory Council has offered no recommendations after a series of meetings on this issue, the Committee will make no recommendations at this time.
- **Tourism Funding:** The Committee urges the new administration to develop a long-term plan to strengthen the efforts of the Division of Travel and Tourism Development with a priority on additional funding for tourism advertising.
- **Venture Capital:** The Joint Committee expresses its disappointment on the lack of progress in the implementation of the Certified Capital Formation Company Act and requests that the Kansas Department of Commerce and Housing provide a status report on the first day of the 2003 Legislative Session to the Senate Commerce and Ways and Means Committees and the House New Economy and Appropriations Committees.
- **Broadband Deployment:** The Committee concludes that broadband is of vital importance to economic development and that the 2003 Session of the Legislature should continue to examine ways to encourage consumer driven investment in broadband throughout the state.
- **Kansas Business Tax Structure and the Creation of a Kansas Business Incentive Program (SB 617):** The Committee recognizes the potential benefits of using a matrix system to streamline incentive programs to induce companies to locate in Kansas.
- **Multi-Dwelling Unit Issues Relating to Cable Communications:** The Committee urges the Legislature to request an Attorney General's opinion as to whether KSA 58-2553 would prohibit the creation of an exclusive easement provision for multi-dwelling unit access to communications or cable television providers.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2003 at 8:30 a.m.