

Approved: March 21, 2012  
(Date)

**MINUTES OF THE HOUSE ENERGY AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Carl Holmes at 9:00 AM on Thursday, March 15, 2012 in 785 of the DSOB.

All members were present except:

Representative Mike Burgess-excused  
Representative Reynaldo Mesa-excused  
Representative Mike Slattery-excused

Committee staff present:

Cindy Lash, Kansas Legislative Research  
Brian Turnbull, Kansas Legislative Research  
Matt Sterling, Kansas Revisor of Statutes  
Renaë Hansen, Committee Administrative Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Kimberly Svaty, AWEA, BP and CPV  
Steve Gaw, Wind Coalition  
Matt Riley, Infinity Wind  
Susan Innis, Vestas  
Aaron Weigel, TradeWind Energy  
Holly Carias, Next Era Energy Resources  
Whitney Damron, Ibergrola Renewables  
Mark Richardson, Farmer/Rancher  
Roger DeGarmo, Meade County

Others in attendance:

Forty-two including the attached list.

The Chairman welcomed the visitors from Black Hills Energy who were here for Black Hills Energy day on the hill.

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Continued Hearing on:

**HB 2446- Renewable energy standards act and energy storage**

Opponents

Kimberly Svaty- AWEA, (Attachment 1), spoke to the committee in opposition to the amendment that was amended into **HB 2446** on the house floor. She spent time explaining the long process that formulated the Renewable Energy Standard developed in the state of Kansas in 2009.

Steve Gaw Wind Coalition, Regional/National Perspective plus SPP and Transmission Planning, (Attachment 2), spoke to the committee about the RES standard and how the addition of transmission lines in Kansas is directly connected to the growth of the wind energy industry in the state of Kansas. His testimony was in opposition to the amendment to **HB 2446**.

Matt Riley, Infinity Wind, (Attachment 3), spoke to the committee from the developers' perspective, and noted their opposition of **HB 2446**. He noted that it would be odd for the state who has the most investment in wind energy in the nation this year, to retract its renewable energy standard at this time.

Susan Innis, Vestas, (Attachment 4), spoke to the committee from the wind manufacturer perspective and noted their opposition to **HB 2446**.

Aaron Weigel, Trade Wind Energy, (Attachment 5), and a wind developer, spoke to the committee about instate production of energy and export of energy to other parts of the country. His testimony was in opposition to **HB 2446**. He talked about the investment analysis and why an RPS works for the investment for renewable energy.

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Holly Carias, Next Era Energy Resources, ([Attachment 6](#)), spoke in opposition to the amendment to **HB 2446** and gave the committee detailed information on Next Eras future projects, and improved economic development for Kansas. The mechanism in place in Kansas statute allows the energy companies to not comply with the RES if the costs to produce wind increase by one percent or greater.

Whitney Damron, Ibergrola Renewables, ([Attachment 7](#)), spoke in opposition to the amendment to **HB 2446**, and talked about the positive influence this committees work has had on renewable development and if this bill were passed would have negative influence on the growth of renewable energy production in Kansas.

Kimberly Svaty, BP & CPV, ([Attachments 8 & 9](#)), offered testimony in opposition of **HB 2446**.

Mark Richardson, Farmer/Rancher, ([Attachment 10](#)), spoke in opposition of the amendment to **HB 2446**.

Written Opponents presenting testimony:

- Rodger DeGarmo, Meade County, ([Attachment 11](#))
- Mark Lawlor, Clean Line Energy Partners, ([Attachment 12](#))
- John Waltner, Harvey County Administrator, ([Attachment 13](#))
- Mickey Fornaro-Dean, Harvey County Economic Development Council, ([Attachment 14](#))
- Moti Reber, Kansas Interfaith Power and Light, ([Attachment 15](#))
- Zach Pistora, Sierra Club, ([Attachment 16](#))
- Harland Priddle, Priddle and Associates, ([Attachment 17](#))
- Rorick Peterson, edp Renewables, ([Attachment 18](#))

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- Dave Kerr, Chair, Kansas Ethonal LLC, (Attachment 19)

Questions were asked and comments made by Representatives: Richard Proehl, Phil Hermanson, Don Hineman, Joe Seiwert, Don Schroeder, Carl Holmes, Tom Sloan, Vern Swanson, Annie Kuether, Nile Dillmore, and Forrest Knox.

Dave Holthaus, Kansas Electric Cooperatives, helped to answer questions the committee asked in addition to those who presented testimony. Tom Day, KCC, also helped to answer committee questions.

The hearing on **HB 2446** was closed.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2012, 9:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

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