

Approved: April 12, 2002
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UTILITIES.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carl D. Holmes at 9:12 a.m. on March 22, 2002 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Carl Krehbiel

Committee staff present: Robert Chapman, Legislative Research
Dennis Hodgins, Legislative Research
Mary Torrence, Revisor of Statutes
Jo Cook, Administrative Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee: Representative Tom Sloan
David Eyerly
Mark Schreiber, Westar Energy
Jim Ploger, Kansas Corporation Commission

Others attending: See Attached List

HB 3017 - Organization of cooperative to generate electricity from renewable resources and technologies and to wholesale such electricity

Chairman Holmes opened the hearing on **HB 3017**.

Representative Sloan, bill sponsor, testified in favor of **HB 3017** (Attachment 1). Representative Sloan stated the bill contains the language the committee previously agreed to in **HB 2631** with changes agreed to by members of the industry. Representative Sloan distributed a memo regarding a conversation with the Kansas Farmers Service and Kansas Coop Council (Attachment 2) and an e-mail he received from Troy Helming (Attachment 3), both supporting the legislation.

David Eyerly, Kansas City, Missouri, addressed the committee in support of **HB 3017** (Attachment 4). Mr. Eyerly stated he would be honored to be among the first to form a cooperative to build a Kansas wind park.

Mark Schreiber, Senior Manager for Government Affairs for Westar Energy, testified in support of **HB 3017** (Attachment 5). Mr. Schreiber, reading testimony submitted by Doug Lawrence, stated they were increasingly interested in renewable energy opportunities in the state.

Jim Ploger, Manager of the Energy Programs Division of the Kansas Corporation Commission, appeared in support of **HB 3017** (Attachment 6). Mr. Ploger stated Kansas now is ranked number one in the nation in potential wind generating capacity. He also distributed two booklets: "Generating Solutions: How States Are Putting Renewable Energy Into Action" and "Small Wind Electric Systems," copies available from Kansas Legislative Research.

The conferees responded to questions from the committee. Additionally, Tom Day, Legislative Liaison for the Kansas Corporation Commission, responded to questions.

Chairman Holmes closed the hearing on **HB 3017**.