

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE UTILITIES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carl Holmes at 9:00 A.M. on February 15, 2006 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Annie Kuether- excused

Vaughn Flora- excused

Committee staff present:

Mary Galligan, Kansas Legislative Research

Dennis Hodgins, Kansas Legislative Research

Rena Hansen, Committee Secretary

Heather Klaasen, Research Intern

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Representative Jim Yonally

Joe Spease, executive director, Kansas Unbound

Mark Tallman, Kansas Association of School Boards

Phil Wages, KEPCO

Larry Patton, Rancher

Trudy Aron, American Institute of Architects

Gary Hibbs, Department of Administration

Diane Gjerstad, Wichita Public Schools

Eric King, Kansas Board of Regents

Michael Volker, Midwest Energy, Ft. Hayes, Kansas

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Holmes began the meeting by sharing with the committee members the current bill action index and asking members which of the 12 bills we acquired yesterday members wanted to have hearings on, since there was limited time available before turn around. It was decided that we would have hearings on **HB 2926**, **HB 2932**, and **HB 2934**.

Hearing on:

HB 2842 **Introducing a wind energy stimulus package.**

Representative Jim Yonally spoke to the committee to introduce Mr. Joe Spease.

Proponents:

Joe Spease, executive director, Kansas Unbound, (Attachment 1), spoke to the committee about why he brought these bills before the State Legislature and what they might do for energy. This bill compiles a number of ideas on how to develop wind energy in the state of Kansas

Mark Tallman, Kansas Association of School Boards, (Attachment 2), spoke as a proponent for **HB 2842** as it sets aside a portion of its proceeds for education.

Opponents:

Phil Wages, KEPCO, (Attachment 3), spoke in opposition to **HB 2842** stating specific sections of the bill that would not be good policy.

Larry Patton, Rancher, (Attachment 4), spoke why there are certain areas that are good for wind energy and certain areas that, because of their endangered ecosystem status, do not make good sites for wind energy.

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Dave Springe, CURB, (Attachment 5), presented written testimony in opposition to **HB 2842**.

Closed hearing on **HB 2842**.

Hearing on:

HB 2843 **Public buildings, green buildings act.**

Proponents:

Joe Spease, executive director, Kansas Unbound, (Attachment 6), presented testimony in favor of **HB 2843**.

Trudy Aron, American Institute of Architects, (Attachment 7), offered testimony that stated how **HB 2843** would not impact adversely the costs of building projects, it would reduce the environmental impact of energy production, and would improve the social impact of communities with buildings built to these specifications.

Gary Hibbs, Department of Administration, (Attachment 8), spoke in support of **HB 2843** as it would help meet LEED standards that assess the environmental sustainability of building designs.

Wendy Harms, Kansas Ready Mixed Concrete Association, (Attachment 9), presented written testimony in favor of the ideas set forth in **HB 2843**.

Opponents:

Mark Tallman, Kansas Association of School Boards, (Attachment 10), spoke in opposition to **HB 2843**.

Diane Gjerstad, Wichita Public Schools, (Attachment 11), offered testimony that showed how the LEED site itself suggests these standards be a voluntary goal and their school system was in agreement with that suggestion.

Eric King, Kansas Board of Regents, (Attachment 12), presented testimony stating their opposition to **HB 2843's** mandated certification process which provides substantial documentation and costs.

Closed hearing on **HB 2843**.

Hearing on:

HB 2844 **Allowing small photovoltaic systems or small wind turbine to offset part or all of a customers current electricity requirements.**

Proponents:

Joe Spease, executive director, Kansas Unbound, (Attachment 13), spoke before the committee on **HB 2844** and how its implementation would help the Kansas economy through job creation, helping the environment, lowering electricity bills and gas bills for Kansas customers, without unfairly harming existing electricity providers.

Opponents:

Michael Volker, Midwest Energy, Ft. Hayes, Kansas, (Attachment 14), presented his testimony stating Midwest Energies view was the same as those of Kansas Electric Cooperatives, KEPCO, and Westar. All of these companies oppose **HB 2844** for a number of reasons.

Dave Springe, CURB, (Attachment 15), offered written testimony in opposition to **HB 2844**.

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Neutral:

Bill Griffith, Sierra Club, (Attachment 16), presented testimony that stated their general favor to net metering but in opposition to this bill as it does not meet the Federal Energy Policy Act of 2005 which directs Public Utility Commissions to open a docket on net metering if it is not already enacted within their jurisdiction.

Questions and comments were offered by Representatives: Don Myers, Rob Olson, Josh Svaty, Oletha Faust-Goudeau, Carl Krehbiel, and Forrest Knox.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 16, 2006.

Meeting Adjourned.