

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UTILITIES.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carl D. Holmes at 9:07 a.m. on February 3, 2004 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Eric Carter

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

Conferees appearing before the committee: Representative Tom Sloan
David Springe, Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board
Mike Murray, Sprint
Mike Reece, AT & T
Janet Buchanan, Kansas Corporation Commission

Others attending: See Attached List

HB 2514 - Telecommunications; high-speed service required to be available; location of wireless towers; KCC civil fine authority

Chairman Holmes opened the hearing on **HB 2514**.

Representative Tom Sloan testified in support of **HB 2514** (Attachment 1). Representative Sloan told the committee that the bill represented his vision for the state and that it represents a commitment to all Kansans, that broadband matters. He concluded his remarks by asking the committee to share his vision for the quality of life and opportunities that our state's citizens should expect from their government and telecommunication providers. Representative Sloan responded to questions from the committee.

David Springe, Consumer Counsel for the Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board, offered testimony in opposition to **HB 2514** (Attachment 2). Mr. Springe shared concerns about the cost of deploying high speed digital service to every customer in Kansas and that the increase in the Kansas Universal Service Fund costs may be substantial.

Michael Murray, Director of Governmental Affairs for Sprint, spoke in opposition to **HB 2514** (Attachment 3). Mr. Murray stated that Sprint opposes the provisions that pertain to mandatory collocation of wireless carriers on specific towers and that allows the Kansas Corporation Commission is the final arbiter of collocation rates. He told the committee they believe the costs far outweigh the benefits.

Mike Reece, appearing on behalf of AT & T, testified as an opponent of **HB 2514** (Attachment 4). Mr. Reece shared AT&T's concern about the mandatory deployment of high speed digital services language in the bill. He said that "to merely mandate deployment without any analysis of customer demand would likely result in inefficient deployment."

Janet Buchanan, Chief of Telecommunications for the Kansas Corporation Commission, provided comments on **HB 2514** (Attachment 5). Ms. Buchanan included in her testimony a listing of the telecommunication providers in Kansas and their deployment of broadband services as of the end of 2002.

Mr. Springe, Mr. Murray, Mr. Reece, and Ms. Buchanan responded to questions from the committee. Chairman Holmes closed the hearing on **HB 2514**.

The meeting adjourned at 10:06 a.m.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 4, 2004.