

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lana Gordon at 3:30 P.M. on February 13, 2008 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Gene Rardin- excused
Mark Treaster- excused

Committee staff present:

Ryan Hoffman, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Matt Todd, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Ann Deitcher, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Tracy Taylor, President & CEO, Kansas Technology Enterprise Corp. (KTEC)

The Chair introduced Tracy Taylor who offered the Committee an overview of KTEC. (Attachment 1).

Mr. Taylor said that KTEC has had a productive year and continued to be innovative and make a positive impact on the Kansas technology-based economy. He said he wanted to talk about some of their more innovative programs.

The three primary items he wanted to cover were: to summarize the role of KTEC in their strategic direction, some of the new innovative initiatives they've created and a brief comment regarding their budget because there are significant cuts proposed to KTEC in the current FYI 2008 budget which they find unique.

He said it's perplexing to the KTEC board of directors to see this happen after watching the Legislature approve the KTEC budget last May and be signed off by the Governor when nothing has changed. Since then they've heard from the Department of the Budget that they want to cut \$436,000 from the current budget which by the time the legislative session is ended and the Governor has signed off, they would have 60 days in which to save that amount.

Referring to page 3 of his brochure he said it showed what the business KTEC is in and what they hope to achieve. For them it is creating wealth, creating higher paying jobs, it's diversifying our economy and it's stopping the "brain drain" in the state of Kansas. He then pointed out where they show that they take intellectual property and they work on the various components that helps turn that into business services.

He pointed out the role of the State Policymaker such as to ensure an adequate supply of capital at all stages of the commercialization process; to support the growth and skill level of the state's workforce and to maintain state-of-the-art infrastructure.

Mr. Taylor called attention to the Come Home to Kansas Initiative listed on pages 11 and 12.

He said that they strongly believe in "hands-on business assistance" and they have a system of business assistance incubators in Johnson County, Manhattan, Wichita and in Lawrence which helps entrepreneurs in a very hands-on manner.

Questions and answers followed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 18, 2008.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Economic Development and Tourism Committee at 3:30 P.M. on February 13, 2008 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.