

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE UTILITIES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Robert Olson at 1:37pm on Thursday, January 22, 2015, 548-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Senator Tom Hawk – Excused

Committee staff present:

Heather O'Hara, Legislative Research Department

Natalie Nelson, Legislative Research Department

Michael Welton, Kansas Legislative Committee Assistant

Matt Sterling, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Brian Boisvert, Wilson Telephone Company

Jimmy Todd, Nex-Tech

Catherine Moyer, Pioneer Communications

Others in attendance:

[See Attached List](#)

### **Possible bill introductions**

Senator Olson called for any bill introduction requests.

Roger Woods representing the Americans for Prosperity made a bill request for the Reliable, Affordable and Safe Power Act (RASP). Bill would call for legislative approval prior to implementation of the Clean Power Plan proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) pursuant to Rule 111(d) of the Clean Air Act.

*Senator Longbine motioned to accept the request. Senator Petersen seconded the motion. The bill request was accepted by the committee.*

Seeing no more requests Senator Olson closed the call for bill introduction requests.

### **Presentation on:**

#### **Overview of Kansas Telecommunications**

Senator Olson called on Brian Boisvert of Wilson, KS representing Wilson Telephone Company to begin the presentation ([Attachment #1](#)).

Senator Olson called on Jimmy Todd of Lenora, KS representing Nex-Tech to continue the presentation ([Attachment #2](#)).

Senator Olson called on Catherine Moyer of Ulysses, KS representing Pioneer Communications to continue the presentation ([Attachment #3](#)).

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES of the Committee on Utilities at 1:37pm on Thursday, January 22, 2015, 548-S of the Capitol.

The presenters made the following points in response to questions and comments from Senators Petersen, Wilborn, Francisco, Lynn and Olson:

- 1.) Investment in rural telecommunications networks provide people opportunities to live, work and thrive in rural areas.
- 2.) Rural telecommunications companies provide good jobs that are vital to the rural economies.
- 3.) Educational institutions such as Fort Hayes State and local community colleges allow rural companies develop the technical expertise to drive high tech rural business.
- 4.) Rural populations and businesses are only being served because of the vital partnerships between local funding and assurances from state and national government (KUSF and USF).
- 5.) Reiterated several times was the statement that the entire state and national networks are more valuable to everyone, if everyone is on the network.

Senator Olson concluded with the observation that because of the universal funds millions of dollars have been invested in rural Kansas networks. He emphasized the importance of modern rural networks to the Kansas economy and the need to continue to closely monitor these processes.

Seeing no further questions or comments Senator Olson adjourned the meeting at 2:15pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 27, 2015.