

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 January 28, 2009, in Room 711 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except:

- Representative Pat George- excused
- Representative Mike Slattery- excused
- Representative Valdenia Winn- excused

Committee staff present:

- Jason Long, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
- Doug Taylor, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
- Reed Holwegner, Kansas Legislative Research Department
- Ann Deitcher, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

- Joni Cobb, Pipeline President, Kansas Technology Enterprise Corporation
- Bruce Ianni, Kansas Technology Enterprise Corporation
- Dr. Robert Atkinson, National Innovation Policy Advisor

The Chair introduced Joni Cobb who spoke briefly of the function of the Kansas Technology Enterprise Corporation (KTEC).

Bruce Ianni, recently named Pipeline Entrepreneur of the Year, addressed the Committee about KTEC, saying it was a private/public partnership, created by the State to support technology-based economic development in Kansas. Central to this mission, KTEC serves as steward of the state's commercialization "value chain," which works to transform scientific discoveries into market-driven businesses. (Attachment 1).

Next on the agenda was Dr. Robert Atkinson who spoke of the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF) saying it was a nonprofit, non-partisan public policy think tank committed to articulating and advancing a pro-productivity and pro-innovation public policy agenda internationally, in Washington and the states. Recognizing the vital role of technology in ensuring American prosperity, ITIF focuses on innovation, productivity and digital economy issues. (Attachment 2).

Speaking of the "new economy" Dr. Atkinson, explained that today's economy is rooted in information technologies. He said that while it's true that information technologies have played a role in the economy since the invention of the telegraphy, something happened in the 1990s when semiconductors, computers, software and telecommunications became cheap enough, fast enough and networked enough to become so ubiquitous as to power a surge in productivity growth.

Dr. Atkinson told the Committee that the purpose of the State New Economy Index was to measure the economic structure of states. He said that this Index uses a number of variables to assess how globally linked a state's economy is by using 29 indicators, divided into five categories that best capture what is new about the New Economy:

- 1) Knowledge jobs.
- 2) Globalization.
- 3) Economic dynamism.
- 4) Transformation.
- 5) Technological innovation capacity.

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Saying that perhaps the most distinctive feature of the New Economy was it's relentless levels of structural economic change. He concluded by saying that states with leaders who challenge their institutions and businesses and who follow through with bold new policies focused on innovation, learning and constant adaptation will be the ones that succeed and prosper.

Questions and answers followed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 2, 2009.