

MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON UTILITIES AND THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TAXATION.

The meeting was called to order by Taxation Committee Vice-Chairman David Huff at 9:11 a.m. on February 13, 2001 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present: Lynne Holt, Legislative Research  
Jo Cook, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Others attending: See Attached List

Utilities Chairman Carl Holmes addressed the joint meeting by discussing energy issues both in the United States and the state of Kansas. Chairman Holmes distributed a chart showing the estimates of the U.S. energy supplies for the next century (Attachment 1). He next discussed the charts showing the natural gas production and consumption in Kansas from 1960 to 2000 and the gas production from the Hugoton area (Attachment 2). Also distributed and discussed were spreadsheets showing the estimated amount of natural gas consumption and electricity demands for the state through 2010 (Attachments 3 and 4). Chairman Holmes also explained each of the Utilities Committee bills (Attachment 5) currently being addressed, pointing out that several of them had been dually referred to both the Utilities and Taxation Committees.

Rep. Tom Sloan, Utilities Committee Vice-Chairman, spoke to the committees about two bills and one resolution that were introduced, by the Utilities Committee, to help reduce demand on the supply of electricity (Attachment 6). Rep. Sloan explained that **HB 2323** will provide tax exemptions to consumers who purchase and install appliances that meet the federal Energy Star program requirements. This bill has been referred to the Taxation Committee. He next talked about **HB 2477**, which provides a tax credit to a taxpayer who purchases and installs ceiling insulation to an R-49 or greater value. Finally, Rep. Sloan explained the need for **HCR 5013**. This resolution would put a constitutional question to the voters regarding the reduction of the property tax assessment rate for utilities.

Rep. Annie Kuether provided an in-depth explanation (Attachment 7) of **Substitute HB 2244**, which establishes the Kansas Energy Resources Coordinating Council and is scheduled to be debated on the House floor later in the day. Also addressing the joint committees on **Sub HB 2244** was Rep. Ward Loyd.

Rep. Gene O'Brien spoke to the need of an energy plan addressing the use of coal.

Representatives Holmes, Sloan, Kuether and Loyd responded to questions from the committee members.

The meeting adjourned at 10:34 a.m.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 14, 2001.