

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE UTILITIES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carl Holmes at 9:00 A.M. on March 8, 2006 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Mary Galligan, Kansas Legislative Research  
Dennis Hodgins, Kansas Legislative Research  
Mary Torrence, Revisor's Office  
Rena Hansen, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

John Federico, Kansas Cable Telecommunications Association  
Jeff Wick, Nex-Teck  
Steve Rarrick, CURB

Others attending:

See attached list.

Mary Galligan, Kansas Legislative Research, (Attachment 1), presented the current status of Telecommunication Price Deregulation in Indiana in a chart form. Additionally, (Attachment 2), a chart comparing the current law and **SB 350** as amended was offered, and (Attachment 3), and SB Bell briefing of the deregulation process and its' affects in Oklahoma.

Hearing on:

**SB 350**      **Regulation of telecommunications.**

Neutral:

John Federico, on behalf of The Kansas Cable Telecommunications Association, (Attachment 4), appeared neutral to **SB 350** in light of some of the amendments made in Senate Utilities.

Opponents:

Jeff Wick, Chief Operating Officer, Nex-Tech, (Attachments 5), presented testimony in opposition to **SB 350**. In light of the fact that **SB 350** most likely would pass, proposed amendments (Attachment 6), to make the bill a bit more fair and palatable.

Steve Rarrick, Staff Attorney, Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board, (Attachment 7), in direct opposition to **SB 350** and described the ramifications it might have for consumers.

Written Opponents:

Ernest Kutzley, Advocacy Director, AARP, (Attachment 8), offered written testimony in opposition to **SB 350**.

Questions were asked and comments were made by Representatives: Annie Kuether, Tom Sloan, Lynne Oharah, Carl Krehbiel, Don Myers, and Melody Miller.

Hearing on **SB 350** was closed.

Tomorrow and Friday the Committee will work **SB 350**.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2006.

Meeting adjourned.