

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 March 12, 2008 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Geraldine Flaharty- excused  
Don Hill- excused  
Don Myers- excused  
Annie Tietze- excused

Committee staff present:

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

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Stan Ahlrich, President, Kansas, Inc  
David Corbin, Department of Revenue, Legislative Affairs.

The Chair introduced Stan Ahlrich who called the Committee's attention to copies of the current organizational chart from the Department of Commerce that had been distributed. (Attachment 1). It offered the proposed new structure as well as proposed Division of Rural Development.

Mr. Ahlrich then addressed the Committee in regard to the Indicators of the Kansas Economy (IKE). (Attachment 2).

Pointing out the indicators of the Kansas economy, he pointed out the key trends in the employment and unemployment. He said they did a migration study by tracking the money and the people.

Dave Corbin, spoke briefly in regard to the demands for Kansas goods coming from Europe, China and India, among other countries, saying that the world economy changed with \$5.00 oil.

Telling the Committee that he felt there was going to be a "big boon" in agriculture in the state, Mr. Ahlrich said that with the rising oil prices, they would not only be producing food but fuel. As far as the climbing price of gasoline, he firmly believes that Kansas will come out ahead because of their ranking in the top ten of oil and gas producers in the nation.

Questions and answers followed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 13.