

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Arlen Siegfleid at 1:30 P.M. on March 13, 2007 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Kathie Sparks, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Dennis Hodgins, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Mike Heim, Revisor of Statutes Office
Carol Doel, Committee Assistant

Conferees:

Whitney Damron - Kikapoo Tribe of Indians - Sac and Fox Nation
Ron Hein - Potawatomi Nation
Glen Thompson - Stand Up For Kansas
Huey York - City of Baxter Springs, Kansas

Chairman Siegfleid opened the floor for introduction of bills.

Representative Terrie Huntington requested a bill for a commission to study gaming. The Chair moved the bill seconded by Representative Peterson. With no objection, this bill will be accepted.

Representative Huebert requested a bill regarding the Real I.D. Act. Chairman Siegfleid moved the bill with a second by Representative Peterson. With no objection, this bill will be accepted.

Chairman Siegfleid opened the floor for public hearing on **HB 2569** - Kansas destination casino act; destination casino commission.

Whitney Damron presented testimony as neutral to **HB 2569** on behalf of the Kickapoo Tribe of Indians of the Kickapoo reservation in Kansas and the Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska. Mr. Damron advised that during the past four years, the Tribes have engaged the services of leading companies and professionals to provide services and counsel related to advancing the Tribes casino project. The Tribes have successfully negotiated a memorandum of agreement with the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas and a service agreement with the Board of Public Utilities in conjunction with consideration of the tribal gaming compact. The Tribes have also met periodically with the leading union representatives to keep them apprised of the project's status. In his testimony, Mr. Damron also referred to the Christiansen report which stated that the preferred form of expanded gaming in Kansas is destination resort casinos. (Attachment 1) Mr. Damron also submitted a letter from the Greater Kansas City Building and Construction Trades Council (Attachment 2), International Union of Operating Engineers (Attachment 3), and Pipe Fitters Association Local Union No. 533 (Attachment 4)

Next to address the Committee was Huey York of Baxter Springs, Kansas who is a proponent of **HB 2569**. Mr. York presented the opinion that a Southeast Kansas casino would generate between 1,000 to 1500 new jobs, provide millions of dollars in state revenue, spin off other business and help level the playing field between our neighbors in Missouri and Oklahoma when it comes to economic development. (Attachment 5)

Chairman Siegfleid opened the floor to the opponents of **HB 2569** and recognized Glenn Thompson from Stand Up For Kansas. Mr. Thompson requested that the Committee oppose the bill for three reasons:

- Corruption
- Slippery slope
- Referendum requirements

The above issues were discussed by Mr. Thompson in his testimony. (Attachment 6) Mr. Thompson also submitted a copy of *The History Of Legalized Gambling In Kansas* for Committee review (Attachment 7) as well as a copy of an article *NC Speaker Pleads Guilty To Corruption*. (Attachment 8)

Ron Hein, legislative counsel for Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation came before the Committee to oppose **HB**

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Federal and State Affairs Committee at 1:30 P.M. on March 13, 2007 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

2569. Mr. Hein presented the opinion that the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation (PBPN) has consistently opposed legislation providing for the expansion of Class 3 gaming by the State of Kansas. Mr. Hein further explained that state and local government, school districts, and other taxing subdivisions benefit from Tribal gaming by virtue of numerous taxes paid as a result of Tribal gaming and the economic development that they currently generate for Northeast Kansas. Mr. Hein also discussed the “slippery slope” and gambling expansions effect upon economic development in the state. Also in his testimony, Mr. Hein explained the Governor’s gaming committee findings. (Attachment 9)

The Committee time allotment was up and the Chair announced that he would continue Mr. Hein’s testimony in opposition to HB 2569 on Wednesday, March 14, 2007.

Chairman Siegfroid entertained a motion to approve the minutes from March 6th, 7th and 8th.

Representative Ruiz moved the minutes with a second by Representative Swenson. Motion passed.

Chairman Siegfroid adjourned the meeting.