

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE UTILITIES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carl Holmes at 9:00 A.M. on March 15, 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:

David Kerr, AT &T
Coleen Jennison, Cox Communications
Laura McConwell, Mission Mayor
Peter Salmeron
Darrell Pope, NAACP
Ron Nutt, KCTU, Wichita, KS
RJ Dickens, KCTU, Wichita, KS
Harriet Lange, KS Association of Broadcasters
Mike Welch, Topeka, KS

Others attending:

See attached list.

Representative Annie Kuether moved to accept the minutes : January 25, 26, and February 2, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17, 20, 21 as presented. Seconded by Representative Margaret Long. Motion carried unanimously.

Hearing on

SB 449 Sub for S 449 by Committee on Commerce - Video competition act.

Proponents:

David Kerr, AT &T, (Attachment 1), gave detailed background on why **SB 449** is necessary and how it would be technically implemented. Additionally, they wanted to offer two changes to the bill.

Coleen Jennison, Cox Communications, (Attachment 2), offered testimony in support of **SB 449** noting that the bill was not perfect noting certain section changes that were necessary for them to continue to support it.

Laura McConwell, Mission, Kansas, Mayor, (Attachment 3), explained how the current franchising process is cumbersome and certain components of the process and resulting franchises do not cultivate new investment and new service providers. They are opposed to the current language that allows companies to come in and break existing contracts without letting them expire first.

Peter Salmeron, (Attachment 4), included with his testimony a resolution that Wichita Hispanic Chamber of Commerce passed in support of **SB 449**.

Darrell Pope, NAACP, (Attachment 5), along with their testimony of support included a resolution passed by Hutchinson Kansas and Johnson County NAACP in support of **SB 449**.

Ron Nutt, KCTU, Wichita, KS, spoke in favor of **SB 449**.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Utilities Committee at 9:00 A.M. on March 15, 2006 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

RJ Dickens, KCTU, Wichita, KS, (Attachment 6), presented written testimony in favor of **SB 449** and alluded to a letter included with the testimony from Cox Media and access rates that they pay.

Harriet Lange, KS Association of Broadcasters, (Attachment 7), gave reasons why cable serving as the primary “gate keeper” in Kansas of local television programming , broadcasters, as well as consumers will be well-served if others are encouraged and able to compete in this arena allowed by **SB 449**.

Mike Welch, Topeka, KS, (Attachment 8), a local consumer gave various view on why **SB449** would benefit his family.

Written Proponents:

Bruce Armstrong, Mayor of Haysville, Kansas, (Attachment 9), offered written testimony supporting **SB 449**, including some of his concerns with the bill.

David P. McClure, President, US Internet Industry Association, (Attachment 10), offered written testimony in favor of **SB 449** noting how in the past decade, virtually everything we knew about telecommunications has been rendered obsolete by advances in technology.

Questions were asked of those testifying and comments given by Representatives: Jason Watkins, Carl Krehbiel, Tom Sloan, Melody Miller, Carl Holmes, Oletha Faust-Goudeau, Annie Kuether, and Don Myers.

Hearing on Sub **SB 449** will continue tomorrow at our next scheduled meeting, March 16, 2006.

Meeting Adjourned.