

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE TAXATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kenny Wilk at 9:00 A.M. on February 13, 2007 in Room 519-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:  
Representative Kinzer

Committee staff present:  
Chris Courtwright, Legislative Research Department  
Martha Dorsey, Legislative Research Department  
Gordon Self, Office of Revisor of Statutes  
Richard Cram, Department of Revenue  
Rose Marie Glatt, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:  
Hon. Maurice P. McTigue, Q.S.O., Mercatus Center, George Mason University

Others attending:  
See attached list.

The Chairman called for bill introductions.

Whitney Damron, on behalf of ONEOK, Inc. requested a bill introduction regarding filing exemption for publicly traded partnerships. Representative Owens moved the introduction. Representative Carlson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Representative Menghini made a motion to introduce a bill regarding a majority vote required for a three member county commission for a special benefit district. Representative Owens seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Vice-Chair Carlson introduced the Honorable Maurice P. McTigue, from the Mercatus Center at George Mason University in Washington D.C. He is a former Legislator, serving in the Parliament of New Zealand, during 1984-1994, when they accomplished major revenue systems (tax) and economic reforms for their government.

Mr. McTigue, said the Mercatus Center is a resource organization, privately funded, attached to George Washington University. They look at how one can convert academic thought into strategies that can be used by legislators as a means of doing the work of government in a better way. He explained the philosophy behind the changes was centered around shifting risk away from government, and moving it back to communities, industries, and in some cases taken away from taxpayers, paying for them at all.

He gave a power point presentation on *Gathering the Revenue*, explaining the process used in New Zealand's economic reform (Attachment 1). Two other documents were distributed during his presentation, 1) a memorandum from Richard W. Rahn, Director General of the Center for Global Economic Growth, a project of the Freedom Works Foundation, entitled *Economic literacy test....and advice*, and 2) a simplified process and structure used by the New Zealand government when it considering the introduction of "a value added tax" (Attachment 2).

He provided demographics on New Zealand and answered Committee member's questions regarding their experience.

The Chairman thanked Mr. McTigue for his presentation. The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m. The next meeting is February 14, 2007.