

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator David Corbin at 8:00 a.m. on March 15, 2000 in 245-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: All members were present.

committee staff present:

Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department  
Mary Ann Torrence, Revisor of Statutes Office  
Lila McClafin, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Senator Pat Ranson, 25<sup>th</sup> District  
Senator Christine Downey, 31<sup>st</sup> District  
Charles Benjamin, Sierra Club, Kansas Resource Council  
Sharon Falk, Groundwater Management District #5  
Mike Jensen, Kansas Pork Producers  
Bill Fuller, Kansas Farm Bureau  
Mike Taylor, city of Wichita  
Rich McKee, Kansas Livestock Assn.  
M. S. Mitchell, Kansas Building Industry

Others attending:

See attached list.

Hearing was opened on **SB 625**— Certain information regarding existing and potential pollution of Equus beds, and **SCR 1638**—Protection of groundwater from swine waste pollution.

A fiscal note on **SB 625** was distributed.

Senator Ranson as the major sponsor of **SCR 1638** explained and supported the resolution. She responded to several questions.

Senator Downey presented testimony supporting **SB 625**. The bill requires the Secretary of KDHE to collect information concerning existing and potential sources of pollution in the Equus Beds area. She further stated the ideal policy regarding the Equus Beds will focus on a cohesive and comprehensive protection system that involves state agencies and local communities (Attachment 1). Attached to Senator Downey's testimony is supporting papers. Senator Downey said she thought the amount the fiscal note listed to collected information was way to high, as she had collected the information attached to her statement without a lot of expense and effort.

Charles Benjamin, Kansas Sierra Club and Kansas Natural Resource Council supported both pieces of legislation. He said all of the state's groundwater is a precious natural resource to be preserved and protected for our use now and in for future generations of Kansans (Attachment 2).

Sharon Falk, Manager, Big Bend Groundwater Management District No. 5, supported **SCR 1638** as it is important to protect sensitive groundwater areas from swine waste pollution (Attachment 3).

Mike Jensen, Kansas Pork Producers Council, supported **SB 625**. He thought the concepts of this bill deserved to be implemented. His council thought **SCR 1638** was one of the least plausible ideas yet floated to protect our environment, therefore they opposed it (Attachment 4)

Mike Taylor, city of Wichita supported both piece of legislation and Senator Corbin asked that he submit written testimony. No written testimony has been submitted at this time.

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Bill Fuller, Kansas Farm Bureau, supported **SB 625** based on their member's desire to protect water quality. He encouraged the committee not to approve **SCR 1638**, as they oppose a moratorium on any agricultural operation (Attachment 5).

Rich McKee, Kansas Livestock Association, spoke in opposition to **SCR 1638**. Their association recommended to closely analyze the research being conducted by Kansas State University to see what, if any, changes need to be made to existing regulations (Attachment 6). **SB 625** he urged the committee to supported the bill.

M. S. Mitchell, Legislative Chair for the Kansas Building Industry Association supported **SB 625** and concurred with aims contained in **SCR 1638**, and opposed the provisions of **SB 636** (Attachment 7).

Ken Goodyear, Geary County, KS, said they have always strived to be good environmental stewards and have worked hard to ensure the water quality of the state (Attachment 8).

Jolene Grabill, REAP, supported **SB 625**.

Written testimony was submitted from:

Ron Gaches, Kansas Society of Professional Engineers supporting **SB 625** (Attachment 9) and Marci Hess, Sedgwick County Commissioners supporting **SB 625** (Attachment 10).

Margaret Fast, Kansas Water Office told the committee she would be submitting a memo with background information concerning the Kansas Water Plan and what is included in the water quality strategy.

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 a.m. The next scheduled meeting will be on March 16, 2000 at 9:00 a.m.