

MINUTES OF THE SENATE UTILITIES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jay Emler at 9:30 A.M. on January 25, 2006 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

Committee members absent:

Committee staff present: Athena Andaya, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Bruce Kinzie, Revisor of Statutes' Office
Ann McMorris, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:
Jeff Wick, Nex-Tech, Hays
Steve Rarrick, CURB

Others in attendance: See attached list

Zone maps for Kansas City, Wichita and Topeka were provided by KCC as requested by the Committee. (Attachment 1)

A list of cities affected by the proposed telecom reform was provided by AT&T. (Attachment 2)

Continuation of hearing on:

SB 350 - Regulation of Telecommunications

Opponents:

Jeff Wick, chief operating officer of Nex-Tech, Inc., voiced three specific concerns of his company with **S.B. 350**. (1) SB 350 simply is not necessary; (2) the new language added to (q)(1)(A) and (q)(5)(A) is a blatant attempt to get deregulation without showing that there is a viable competitor in the deregulated exchange; and (3) new language proposed in (q)(3) without oversight of the KCC, will eliminate competitive carriers. He concluded by saying that consumer choice, competition and the public interest will best be served if the Committee rejects **SB 350** and permits the KC to continue to exercise its responsibilities under existing law. (Attachment 3)

Questions from the committee regarding federal rules which govern rates in Kansas and pricing practices.

Steve Rarrick, Staff Attorney, for Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board, appeared in opposition to **S.B. 350** in its entirety. He urged the Committee to vote against SB 350 and further to approve CURB's proposal to amend K.S.A. 66-2008(q) to lengthen the time in which the KCC must act upon an application for price regulation from the current 21 days to 60 days. (Attachment 4)

Considerable discussion and questions directed to Mr. Rarrick.

Due to the lack of time to hear further testimony, the Chairman continued the hearing on **SB 350** to Monday, October 30.

Committee members requested a comparison of laws which are in existence in the surrounding states on this subject of price regulation of telecommunications. Legislative research will prepare this document.

Adjournment.

Respectfully submitted.

Ann McMorris, Secretary

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