

Approved: March 7, 2005

Date

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE UTILITIES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jay Scott Emler at 9:30 A.M. on March 3, 2005 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:

Catherine Moyer, Director of Legal and Regulatory Affairs, WestLink Communications, LLC  
Bill Hayden, Director of Wireless Operations, WestLink Communications

Others in attendance: See attached list

### Approval of Minutes

Moved by Senator Petersen, seconded by Senator Apple, the minutes of the meetings held by the Senate Utilities Committee on February 21, 2005 and March 1, 2005, be approved. Motion carried.

### Presentation on Wireless Program in Rural Areas

Catherine Moyer, Director of Legal and Regulatory Affairs, WestLink Communications, LLC, told the committee that the two hottest topics in the wireless industry today are eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC) status and interconnection of wireless providers and wireline providers. To be designated as an ETC, a carrier must fit the definition provided in the 1996 Telecommunications Act, as well as the FCC rules. Just recently FCC released an Order stating that either the wireless or wireline carrier can force negotiated interconnection agreements. (Attachment 1)

Bill Hayden, Director of Wireless Operations, WestLink Communications, presented a power point program that gave the history of WestLink Communications, provided information on the areas served, future plans for expansion and equipment required. (Attachment 2)

Questions and discussion on how rural areas are being served, future plans for expansion of service, digital and analog systems, and the funding provided.

Adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann McMorris, Secretary

Attachments - 2