

MINUTES OF THE SENATE UTILITIES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jay Emler at 9:30 A.M. on March 13, 2008 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

Committee members absent:

Committee staff present: Raney Gilliland, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Cindy Lash, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Mike Corrigan, Revisor of Statutes
Ann McMorris, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Rep. Tom Sloan
John Federico, Kansas Cable Telecommunications Assn.

Others in attendance: See attached list

Chair opened the hearing on:

HB 2634 - Grant program for deploying broadband service in under served rural areas

Proponents

Rep. Tom Sloan reviewed amendments made to **HB 2634** by the House Energy & Utilities Committee and the House Committee of the Whole. He urged the committee to consider restoring the stricken language or substituting another funding mechanism. He also called attention to the reporting requirements of the bill and KCC participation. (Attachment 1)

Written testimony in support of **HB 2634** was provided by Terry D. Holdren, Kansas Farm Bureau. (Attachment 2)

Neutrals

John Federico, Kansas Cable Telecommunications Association, stated KCTA's concerns are based on the fact that broadband is not a regulated product and they are under no current obligation, either on the federal, state or local level, to provide information as required by **HB 2634**. He presented a balloon of **HB 2634** with proposed amendments. (Attachment 3)

Considerable discussion on the proposed amendments to the bill. The committee asked how many companies provide this service. No list was available.

Chair closed the hearing on **HB 2634**.

Adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann McMorris, Secretary

Attachments - 3