

DRAFT MINUTES

SENATE AND HOUSE COMMITTEES ON STATE AGENCIES AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS SENATE AND HOUSE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT Meeting Jointly

November 10, 2014

The Senate and House Committees on State Agencies and Governmental Affairs and the Senate and House Committees on Agriculture, Forestry, and Economic Development met jointly on Monday, November 10, 2014, at 1:00 p.m. in Room A of the MAC Building.

Committee members in attendance: Senators Eddie Joe Williams, Chair; Jane English, Vice Chair; Bruce Maloch, Vice Chair; Alan Clark, Jonathan Dismang, David Johnson, Bobby Pierce, and Gary Stubblefield. Representatives Andrea Lea, Chair; Mathew Shepherd, Chair; Denny Altes, Nate Bell, David Branscum, Ann Clemmer, Andy Davis, Jim Dotson, Charlotte Douglas, Dan Douglas, Charlene Fite, John Hutchison, Joe Jett, Homer Lenderman, Stephen Meeks, Jim Nickels, Betty Overbey, John Payton, and Chris Richey.

Other legislators in attendance: Senators Joyce Elliott, and Jon Woods. Representatives Randy Alexander, Charles Armstrong, David Fielding, Bill Gosage, Douglas House, Fredrick Love, Mark Lowery, Stephanie Malone, Micah Neal, and Sue Scott. Representatives-Elect Rick Beck, Charles Blake and Mathew Pitsch.

Representative Lea called the meeting to order.

Without objection, the September 24, 2014, meeting minutes were approved.

Interim Study Proposal 2013-163 by Senator Williams – Requesting to Study Issues and Prepare Recommendations Concerning Nonconsent Towing and the Arkansas Towing and Recovery Board. [Exhibit C]

Senator Eddie Joe Williams, presented possible legislation for counties and/or cities that engages in or authorizes nonconsent towing. The possible legislation provides that if a county or city engages in nonconsent towing then they shall enact one or more of the ordinance: 1) Create a procedure for a person to file a complaint concerning a violation; 2) Create a system for investigation of a complaint; 3) Impose sanctions for a violation of the ordinance; and 4) Allow for an order of restitution when appropriate. Without objection, the interim study proposal was approved.

Interim Study Proposal 2013-146 by Representative Hutchison - Requesting to Study the Ramifications of the Plains & Eastern Clean Line Transmission Project. [Exhibits E.1 to E.10]

Representative John Hutchison, gave a brief description of the Plains and Eastern Clean Line Transmission Project. The Plains and Eastern Clean Line Transmission Project would construct and operate a transmission line throughout various states including Arkansas. The proposed route for the transmission line would travel through the bottleneck of the Mississippi Flyway which, is an important national staging area for waterfowl migration. The bottleneck of the Mississippi area provides great economic benefit to the region due to the favorable conditions it provides for waterfowl and duck hunting.

Kansas State Representative Dennis Hedke, provided a brief presentation on his experience with the Grain Belt Express CleanLine. The Grain Belt Express CleanLine is a proposed 750-mile direct current transmission line that will connect the wind resources of Kansas to Missouri, Illinois, and Indiana. The transmission line will deliver up to 3,500 megawatts of low-cost wind power, via direct current transmission line. Representative Hedke briefly discussed concerns of residents of northern Kansas who do not support the project. Clean Line Energy met with the residents, and the company has proposed several changes to the route to address landowners concerns. (Testimony via telephone)

Dr. Dennis Smith, Missouri Emergency Medicine Physician, briefly discussed his concerns with the transmission project. He stated his concerns about the property rights and the possible health dangers posed by the electromagnetic fields produced by power lines and electronic devices. Dr. Smith gave a brief overview of the Bioinitiative report presented to the Missouri Public Service Commission. This report provided the Commission of possible health risks, before making a final decision on whether or not to permit a new high voltage line from being built in Missouri. (Testimony via telephone)

Mr. John Bethel, Director of Arkansas Public Service Commission, discussed the application of Clean Line for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity seeking authority to operate as a public utility in the State of Arkansas. Mr. Bethel stated the Commission denied Clean Line's application to become a public utility in Arkansas based on the statutory definition of a "public utility" found in Arkansas Code Ann. §23-1-101(9)(a).

The following people also provided testimony regarding ISP 2013-146:

Ms. Rachel Barker

Mr. Mike Knoedl, Director, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Mr. Luke Naylor, Water Fowl Coordinator

Mr. Randy Young, Director, Arkansas Natural Resources Commission

Ms. Cynthia Callahan, Resident, Pope County

Mr. Jerry Harry, Resident, Crawford County

Mr. Gordon Millsap, Resident, Pope County

Ms. Keryn Newman, Director of Policy and Strategic Planning for the Coalition of Reliable Power

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.