

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMERCE COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Karin Brownlee at 8:30 a.m. on March 11, 2003 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: April Holman, Legislative Research
Deb Hollon, Legislative Research
Mitch Rice, Revisor of Statutes
Jodie Anspaugh, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Annabeth Surbaugh, Johnson County Board of County Commissioners
Don Jarrett, Johnson County Board of County Commissioners
Dave Anderson, Mayor of DeSoto

Others attending: See attached list.

Chairperson Brownlee opened the hearing on SB 237 regarding the Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant Transfer. April Holman from Legislative Research briefed the committee on the bill. She mentioned HB 2212, which would change the law that prohibits the annexation of a US military reservation. This would allow a city to annex the Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant, with DeSoto being the most likely city. She also referenced the fiscal note. (Attachment 1) Chairperson Brownlee clarified that the language in the fiscal note is the same as the language in the fiscal note in SB 235. She believes that it is very questionable because Starbonds are not included in this bill. Ms. Holman stated that page 17, line 18 could be interpreted to include Starbonds by reference.

Annabeth Surbaugh, Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners of Johnson County, testified in support of SB 237. (Attachment 2) The Sunflower Plant contains over 9,000 acres of land located along a primary growth corridor. The Board of County Commissioners believes SB 237 is necessary in order to ensure that redevelopment at Sunflower occurs in a positive and beneficial manner.

Don Jarrett, General Counsel, Johnson County Board of County Commissioners, testified in favor of SB 237. (Attachments 3 and 4) He clarified that the intent of the bill is not to create Starbonds, but if statewide Starbonds are allowed, they could be used for this. Mr. Jarrett answered questions regarding pending lawsuits, and the procedures for transferring the land.

Dave Anderson, Mayor of DeSoto, testified in opposition to SB 237. He would like for the committee to specifically state DeSoto in the bill as the city closest to the development. He also questioned why a

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board has not been created to solicit nationwide proposals for the land. He stated that this is a unique opportunity and must be dealt with using the right process.

Senator Brownlee left the hearing open on SB 237 and announced that the committee will start at 8:00 a.m. tomorrow to discuss this issue further.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2003 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 123-S.