



January 30, 2008

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GENERAL SESSION

January 23, 2008

Program Topic: Renewable Energy Standards for Utah – Panel Discussion

Presented by: Natural Resources/Agriculture & Environment

Co-chairs: Dr. June Taylor & Nancy Donnelly

Director: Donna Stevenson

Speakers: Sarah Wright, MSPH – Director, Utah Clean Energy
**Gary Sandquist, PhD, MBA – Prof Emeritus, Mechanical Engineering,
University of Utah**
**Rep. Christine Johnson (D) Dist. 25, Salt Lake County (SL east bench,
western part of Summit County)**
Kent Udell, PhD – Prof & Chair, Mechanical Engineering, U of U
Tim Wagner, MSPH – Director, Utah Clean Energy

Sarah Wright, addressing the topic of renewable energy resources and Utah's future needs, said we now use 3.2% per year renewable energy. Distributing written information relating to potential energy resources and Utah Clean Energy Legislation, she said the goal is to raise energy efficiency 20% statewide by the year 2015, an increase that could serve one million Utah homes.

Solar energy has the potential of saving the state \$2-4 billion. Utah's technical wind potential as a renewable resource is estimated at nearly 2,500 megawatts, which represents over \$2.7 billion in net economic benefits and over 1,100 long-term jobs. Eight bills have been proposed to support more energy efficient homes, focusing on energy renewal and diversification.

Dr. Gary Sandquist, speaking on the pros, cons and costs of nuclear energy generation, noted that while the initial cost for nuclear energy is expensive, it would pay off in the long run. Our population is growing by 2.7% and there will be a shortfall of energy in the year 2011. Dr. Sandquist predicted that we will turn to hydrogen powered vehicles in the future. Until we can find alternative renewable energy, we will rely on natural gas, plentiful in Utah, and coal. In his view, nuclear power is the best alternative.

Responding to questions, he said it takes about three years to build a nuclear power plant in China. It would take the United States about 15 years to build the same plant, due to governmental obstacles. Nuclear waste should also be re-used rather

than contained but, again, governmental restrictions prohibit it. Wind towers require huge amounts of acreage to accommodate them. Wyoming, which has better wind collecting conditions than Utah, can only generate wind energy 20% of the time, highlighting the problem of both climate-based (solar & wind) resources.

Dr. Kent Udell, addressing the pros, cons and costs of renewable energy resources, listed water (necessary for generating energy), externalized cost and installation costs as important items to consider when comparing energy resources. External costs, such as health care, are often overlooked and need to be factored into fuel costs. An example of an “externalized environmental cost” would be 64,000 premature deaths attributed to pollution.

Comparing relative costs per kilowatt hour, he listed nuclear power as most expensive, followed by solar power, wind, geothermal and, finally, coal. Responding to a question, he said the advantages of using natural gas to produce electricity consist of its being both more economical and cleaner than coal.

Rep. Johnson, needing to be on the House Floor, apologized for arriving late to our

meeting and leaving early. She spoke of a Renewable Energy Provisions bill being sponsored by Sen. Scott McCoy (D), and also informed us of **HB146** which she is sponsoring. Rep. Johnson’s bill addresses the problem of school bus idling and would retrofit old buses and restrict their practice of sustained idling.

She is also sponsoring **HB303** which would prohibit the sale of any household dishwashing detergent containing 0.5% or more phosphorus by weight. Detergent phosphates (which cause the formation of algae) have been found in our water supply. She commended WSLC for its interest in environmental concerns.

Tim Wagner addressed the environmental impact of energy resource options. He mentioned Sen. McCoy's Renewable Energy Provisions bill (not yet introduced) supporting nuclear energy by 2025, and Rep Bramble's Energy Resource and Carbon Emission Reduction Initiative (not yet introduced), saying he prefers Sen. McCoy’s bill. He also recommended renewable energy increase goals which he believes would benefit our rural economies.

Reported by June J. Bills

General Session II

Health & Human Services/Retirement & Independent Entities

Program Topic: HB17 – Cancer Screening & Mortality Reduction

Co-Chairs: Shauna Scott-Bellacomo & Dianne Yancey
Director: Donna Murphy, RN,MSN,CPN

Speakers: **Rep. Paul Ray (R) Dist.13, Davis County, Sponsor of HB17**
Michael Siler, Utah Director of Government Relations, American Cancer Society
Sen. Allen Christensen (R) Dist. 19, Morgan, Summit, Weber Counties

Rep. Ray explained **HB17** as legislation that would expand the Department of Health's Breast Cancer Mortality Rate Reduction program to include other cancers and provide necessary additional funding to the program. The importance of early screening can hardly be overemphasized, as it saves lives and significantly reduces treatment costs.

Age 40-49 is the targeted age group. **HB17** would appropriate \$2.3 million dollars to the Health Department for funding educational campaigns and early breast and cervical cancer screenings to women who do not have coverage through private insurance or Medicaid.

Michael Siler, also calling attention to the need for early cancer screening, cited a recent article in The Salt Lake Tribune which reported Utah's women as having the lowest rate of early cancer screening in the nation. A simple formula applies: The later the detection, the higher the mortality rate.

Low income patients tend to have a higher incidence of late stage cancer, a problem this bill attempts to redress. Citing the higher costs associated with typical late stage treatment, he said if only 20 such patients

are saved from progressing to late stage treatment, the state will have recouped its \$2.3 million investment. A portion of the appropriated money will go to awareness education.

Sen. Christensen said he felt it important to clarify at the outset that he is not against this bill. As Co-Chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee he is responsible to prioritize Utah's needs in the spending of over \$2 billion this year. It is a task his committee always find formidable, very often heartbreaking, and it will be no different this year.

Giving examples of the many worthy appropriation requests considered by his committee and the variables associated with how they are prioritized, he noted that Health & Human Services concerns are often particularly poignant. Issues of sexual diseases, child immunization, mental & physical disabilities, and pandemic preparedness are among those that must compete for funding. Cancer is no respecter of persons or income and he is aware of the critical role prevention and early screening plays.

Reported by Shirley R. Johnsen

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