

Amanda Teegarden reports from Kansas on Legislature Testimony

All,

On Monday, March 17, 2008 I was able to be part of testimony given to two committees of the Kansas State Legislature, supporting HCR 5033 by Rep. Judy Morrison (R), a bill urging the US withdrawal from the SPP and NAFTA.

The first committee was the 23-member Federal and State Affairs committee, followed by the 17-member Economic Development and Tourism committee.

Preceding the committee hearings, three of us - (David & Linda Stall and I) - were with Rep. Morrison during a one-hour interview at 8:00 am on the "Jim Cates" radio show down the street from the Capitol.

The Stalls spoke about the Trans-Texas Corridor and PPPs; I briefly discussed NASCO and OK-SAFE's efforts in Oklahoma; Rep. Morrison invited the public to her committee meetings. (Ironically, Jim Cates said he'd had the NASCO board president, George Blackwood, in-station to promote NASCO and SmartPort and said these things are happening and might as well go along with it. Cates said they were very open about it.)

(I got the impression both from the radio host and Rep. Morrison that the grassroots activists in Kansas are invisible. Hopefully this visit to Kansas will cause a stirring.)

At the Capitol, Rep. Morrison gave all the committee members a 3-ring binder with over 100 pages of documentation indicating the efforts that are underway to create a union with Canada and Mexico and that a transportation system is being erected to support this union.

This documentation include OK-SAFE open records documents. Rep. Morrison read from our open records (emails) on NASCO on two different occasions.

The Federal and State Affairs committee meeting began late, 1:45 pm instead of 1:30 pm, and there were about 30-40 people in the audience.

Each of the 8 witnesses were given 5" to present their testimony. As the first witness, I spoke representing OK-SAFE and my topic was "NASCO & NAFTRACS - Global Tracking system" and Oklahoma's not renewing their NASCO membership.

The next witness was introduced by video - on the screen appeared **Bruce DeLay, pastor of Heartland church introducing Sen. Randy Brogdon at the Defending America's Sovereignty conference held in Tulsa last September!** Sen. Brogdon's presentation had been edited to 5" and included his "Texas turn-around" comment. This was well received by the audience.

This was such a wonderful thing to see, - neither Bruce nor Sen. Brogdon even knew they were giving testimony in the Kansas Supreme Court room!

The other witnesses were the excellent David & Linda Stall of Corridor Watch in Texas, speaking about the Trans-Texas Corridor and Public/Private Partnerships (respectively); Todd Spencer of the OOIDA (Owner/Operator Independent Drivers Association) speaking about the Mexican truck pilot project; Bill Moore of the Teamster, giving a trucker's perspective; Rick Greeno, offering support of the bill (he represented another Union but I did not catch the name); and Owen de Long, "I have three degrees from Harvard and have taught at both KU and KSU", a Professional Political Consultant/Teacher/Tutor, who spoke about NASCO and the NAFTA Superhighway.

[Mr. de Long was a substitute witness from Merriam, KS, for US Congresswoman Nancy Boyda who was unable to attend and her husband (her original substitute) was called away suddenly. For those who may not remember, Nancy Boyda won her seat two years ago campaigning against the NAFTA Superhighway.]

Mr. de Long spoke eloquently against NASCO/NAFTA Superhighway, waving his documents around a bit as he spoke, saying he's "been researching this for three years."

I was surprised (and relieved) to hear him. His arguments stressed the potential eminent domain abuse and stressed the amount of federal funding NASCO has managed to manipulate toward their purposes - a figure in the billions of dollars, he claimed.

His statement included nothing about the "Lockheed Martin/Savi/Global Tracking system data" nor the names NASCO is also known as. (I believe OK-SAFE has an edge here because of the amount of open records we have accumulated and the access to independent researchers in AZ and ID.) Mr. de Long was the one witness the committee asked questions of, other than Todd Spencer, I believe.

Between de Long's testimony and OK-SAFE's, NASCO really got a black eye.

Each of the witnesses provided a portion of the big picture and I believe went a long way toward convincing the two committees that this is not "internet myth," but a reality that they need to aware of.

One legislator, outside Rep. Morrison's office later in the day, said he'd have to go home and eat crow, as his wife had been telling about this stuff before and he had not believed her. He was going to look up recipes for crow when he got home.

I hope this bodes well for Rep. Morrison's bill - the legislative session ends in two weeks and this is her last term. According to Rep. Morrison today, the bill has not been voted on yet. In my opinion, Kansas is about a year behind Oklahoma in these efforts and we need to remember them in our prayers and give support where we can.

Representative Morrison speaks well of Rep. Charles Key and respects his work tremendously.

It was a privilege to be a small part of this effort in Kansas and I thank the Lord for the opportunity and for travel mercies there and back. God is so good.

Thank you, too, for all the prayers - God bless you all.

Sincerely yours,
Amanda Teegarden
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