



MEMBERS:
SENATOR HILDENBRAND,
MAJORITY VICE CHAIRMAN
SENATOR NOFS
SENATOR EMMONS
SENATOR HANSEN
SENATOR SMITH,
MINORITY VICE CHAIRMAN
SENATOR ANANICH

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
THE SENATE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE
SENATOR MIKE KOWALL
CHAIRMAN**

305 FARNUM BUILDING
P.O. BOX 30036
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7536
PHONE: (517) 373-1758
FAX: (517) 373-0938

MINUTES

A meeting of the Senate Economic Development Committee was held on Thursday, August 15, 2013, at 8:30 a.m. in the Escanaba City Hall Chambers, 410 Ludington St, Escanaba, MI 49829.

The meeting was called to order at 8:32 a.m.

Members Present: Senators Kowall (C), Smith, Ananich
Members Absent: Senators Hildenbrand, Nofs, Emmons, Hansen

Senator Kowall called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance.

Senator Kowall announced the order of business:

- Brief remarks by Governor Rick Snyder.
- Presentation by Department of Environmental Quality Director Dan Wyant.
- Presentation by Department of Natural Resources Director Keith Creagh.
- SB 397 Sen. Casperson Economic development; other; next Michigan development act; modify.
- SB 398 Sen. Casperson Economic development; other; next Michigan development act; modify.
- A Discussion on the Economic Impact, Opportunities and Needs of the Upper Peninsula.

Senator Kowall welcomed legislators from the Upper Peninsula to the meeting.

Senator Kowall invited Governor Rick Snyder to give a brief statement to the committee.

Senator Kowall recognized Senator Casperson to make a statement to the committee.

Senator Kowall called forth Department of Environmental Quality Director Dan Wyant, Department of Natural Resources Director Keith Creagh, and State Forester Bill O'Neil to give a presentation to the committee. Director Wyant, Director Creagh, and Mr. O'Neil then answered questions from committee members.

Senator Kowall placed before the committee Senate Bills 397 & 398 (Sen. Casperson) for testimony only. Senator Casperson explained the bills to committee members and answered questions.

The following persons testified on Senate Bills 397 & 398 and answered questions from committee members:

- Jim O'Toole, Escanaba City Manager—Support
- Bill Vajda, Marquette City Manager—Support
- Representative Kivela—Support
- James McBryde, Michigan Economic Development Corporation—Support
- Ralph Bebogne, Engineering Machined Products--Support

- Larry Bell, Founder & CEO of Bell's Brewery & Upper Hand Brewery—Support
- Laura Coleman, Bay College—Support
- Darla Falcon, City Manager, City of Gladstone—Support
- Nora Vrain, Delta County Administrator—Support
- Scott Erbish, Marquette County Administrator—Support
- Michele LeMire, Superintendent of Escanaba Public Schools—Support
- David Anderson, Orvana Minerals—Support
- Dr. Parsi Lautala, Michigan Technical University—Support
- Gary Hough, Iron County Economic Development—Support

Senator Kowall called for the following persons to give presentations on the Economic Impact, Opportunities and Needs of the Upper Peninsula; and to answer questions from committee members:

- Dr. Pasi Lautala, Michigan Technical University
- Scott Robbins, Michigan Forest Products Council
- George Van Straten, Van Straten Brothers—X-3 Energy
- Marilyn Kinsey, Delta County Economic Development Alliance
- Charlie Becker, Plum Creek Senior Resource Manager
- Gavin Leach & Dave Maki, Northern Michigan University
- Dave McCartney, Peninsula Fiber General Manager
- Jay Brogan, President & CEO of Hiawatha Communications Incorporated
- Dennis Liimatta, Marquette Township Supervisor
- Joe Rogina, Breitung Township Supervisor
- Jim McBryde, Michigan Economic Development Corporation

Senator Kowall and Senator Casperson gave closing remarks to the committee on the day's presentations.

Being no further business before the committee, Senator Kowall adjourned the meeting without objection at 11:16 a.m.

Date approved by the Committee: September 6, 2013

**An audio recording of this committee meeting is available upon request for a minimal fee.