

COMMITTEE MINUTES for GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT

Date: January 28, 2010

Place: Legislative Dining Room

Convened: 1/28/2010
10:10 AM

Recessed:

Reconvened:

Adjourned: 1/28/2010
11:40 AM

Present: Senators Olive-CH, Soddors
Representatives Lensing-CH, Ford-VC, Watts-RM, Baudler, Berry, Olson, S., Sorenson,
Whitead

Absent: None

Excused: Senators Courtney-VC, Ward-RM, Wieck
Representative Swaim

Senator Olive called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. Roll call was taken. The minutes for the previous meeting were approved.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the delivery of propane (LP) to LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) consumers. This program is administered under the Department of Human Rights Division of Community Action Agencies.

Preston Daniels, Director, Department of Human Rights gave an explanation of how this program is administered and how many Iowans it serves each year. His statement pointed out the complaints and business policies of some vendors that appear to disqualify or otherwise prevent consumers from having LP delivered to them. Mr. Daniels brought his remarks to a close by stating problems that the Legislature could address.

Following were several personal stories from Andrea O'Neal, Mid Iowa Community Action, and Brenda Cousins, a potential customer relating to problems in obtaining LP. Jennifer Easler of the Office of Consumer Advocate, Division of Iowa Department of Justice spoke about service rights and disconnection conditions for gas or electric by utility companies. She stated that LP did not fall under their jurisdiction because it is not a utility.

Bill Brauch of the Consumer Protection Division explained how his Division looks into fraud in a number of different areas. He felt that there was a gap in protection coverage for propane consumers.

Todd Pellet of Pell Gas Inc. and Terry Davis, Country Propane in Milo, Iowa presented the views of propane dealers and how they respond to their customers. Keith Luchtel on behalf of Iowa Propane Gas Association spoke about their effort to work with LIHEAP customers and their desire to cooperate in the delivery issues that were brought into focus at this meeting.

Senator Soddors spoke about the introduction of SF 2125 to address this issue.

Questions were taken from the committee.

Representative Berry moved to arise and the meeting was adjourned at 11:40.

Representative Vicki S. Lensing

Patricia Van Cleave, Committee Secretary