February 14, 1977

The Natural Resources subcommittee on Conservation and Public Participation convened in room 225 at 7:45 p.m., February 14, 1977 with Chairman Bengtson presiding and Reps. Nathe, Davis and Curtiss present. Present also were Karen Hedblom and Randy Bowsher from the SRS; Jeff Rupp, Community Affairs; Sonny Hanson, Registered Land Surveyors; Darlene Grove, League of Women Voters; Pat Binns.

Chairman Bengtson brought up HB 701 which had been heard in committee that morning with no opponents appearing. However, there were people from SRS to present opposing testimony this evening.

Karen Hedblom, SRS, said the SRS opposes section 2 of the bill which calls for coordinating Title XX funds and appropriating them to the Dept. of Community Affairs to use in the weatherization program. She said of the 8.7 million they get in Title XX funds $523,000 goes into the ageing service--$200,000 for meals on wheels; $50,000 for transportation; $48,000 for homemaking services; and $223,000 for weatherization and repair. She said taking their weatherization funds would fragment their services as they now have flexibility of switching funds from one program to another as needed. She said in their weatherization program the money goes through the area agency and they contract for the provision of services and at times this has meant contracting with local teams of the D. of C. A. She said if they don't get the contract they aren't always happy. She said to be eligible for weatherization a person must be over 65 if white, 45 if Indian, own their own home and be within 80% of the median family income ($11,000). She said they had paid bills as high as $1500 and all the money alloted is gone. She said they started funding last July for this program. This included both minor home repairs and weatherization so difficult to say just how much went just for weatherization.

Jeff Rupp, D. of C. A., said this bill would allow the state to avoid duplicating administering agencies for weatherization. He said their funds would go to help the lower incomes (family of 4 who made $5400 is an example) and there is no age bracket. He said they are designed to help the home owners -- if we do have an apartment building the understanding is the rent can't be raised because of lower fuel bills. He said the majority of homes they weatherize were built before 1950 and the reason the owners haven't insulated is their income--they cannot afford it. He said the program is limited to $350 a house. He said the difference between weatherization and winterization is not--really the same--where you have winter its winterization. He said their administration costs were about 10%. SRS said 15% was allowable for administration costs under their program.

Sonny Hanson mentioned on page 3--a reference to building codes that shouldn't be there. This has to do with asbestos type insulation which is only used to insulate steel structures.

HB 733 How many people would be eligible here? Pat Binns said this bill is to give a break to people in the upper lower income group. Chairman Bengtson mentioned this would not have any matching funds and considering the fiscal impact probably would not be the bill to go along with. She felt that HB 701 better addressed the weatherization question.

HB 731 It was suggested to wait until this bill was heard in committee.

HB 426 Sonny Hanson suggested that on page 3, lines 5 and 6, the wording "as computed by a qualified architect or engineer" be left as it is in the bill--a proponent of the bill had suggested striking it. He said it would cost $1500 to $2000 for one computer run and some buildings like a warehouse wouldn't call for a life cycle analysis. He said he would subscribe to this as long as the moneys were available for the projects that are being contemplated in the long range building program. But he felt it was too detailed--too many things wanted, and would be quite expensive.

Rep. Davis expressed his views that life cycle costs is important. He said our approach has been the cheapest bid--which might not end up being cheapest.

Darlene Grove felt the price might come down if competitive bids were taken -- if we can't afford life cycle we shouldn't be building.

Pat Binn said that lines 11 and 12 say a computer run doesn't have to be done--matter of choice. He said the added design costs will be recovered in optimum energy use.

Mrs. Grove questioned if cars could be added to the life cycle bill.

Chairman Bengtson requested Russ Plath to pick up Rep. Meloy's amendment dealing with this.

Chairman Bengtson said the committee's role was to pick the best wetherization bill possible and to bring it back to the committee to debate.

Rep. Curtiss moved that HB 701 be recommended as the better bill over HB 732 and 733. Rep. Nathe seconded the motion. Motion carried with Rep. Davis voting no.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Esther G Bengtson

Esther Bengtson, Chairman

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