

Senate Committee on Commerce and Tourism

A meeting of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Tourism was held Monday, January 4, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. at Motor City Blight Busters, 17405 Lahser Rd, Detroit MI 48219.

The meeting was called to order at 10:20 a.m.

Members present: Senators Allen, Clarke, and Hunter

Members excused: Senators Nofs, and Stamas

Senator Allen called the meeting to order.

Senator Allen welcomed everyone to the meeting, and thanked John George, President of Motor City Blight Busters for hosting us.

Senator Hunter thanked the committee and welcomed everyone to the 5th Senate District.

Senator Allen laid before the committee for consideration Senate Bills 978 (Sen. Allen), 979 (Sen. George), 1015 (Sen. Van Woerkom), 1016 (Sen. Hunter), and 1017 (Sen. George).

Senator George explained the bills to the committee.

Gary Wozniak, Development Director for Self-Help Addiction Reorientation Foundation, Inc, testified in support of the bills but did outline some concerns regarding eminent domain and tax capture.

Jerald A. Rosenfeld, of the JR Group, testified in support of the bills but discussed concerns regarding the impact of speculators purchasing property in Detroit.

Douglass Diggs, testified that he had been working with the Detroit Land Bank, he indicated the Detroit Land Bank board had not taken a formal position on the legislation but that they were supportive of the concept of the bills.

Michael J. Brady, from Community Legal Resources, testified regarding concerns he had over whether the bills would inadvertently be taking powers away from existing land banks.

Charles Cross, representing the Detroit Collaborative Design Center, testified in support of the bills but raised some concerns regarding the definition of urban agriculture in SB 1015.

Riet Shumack testified in support of the concept behind the bills.

Jim Casha raised some concerns regarding the concept of urban agriculture especially as it pertains to animals in the city.

Marsha Bruhn, chairperson of the Detroit Land Bank Authority, indicated that the board had not taken an official stance on the legislation, but that she appreciated the committees efforts in trying to help to promote redevelopment of abandoned and tax reverted property.

Senator George responded to some of the concerns that had been raised in testimony.

Senator Allen thanked everyone for coming and indicated that future hearings would be held on the legislation in the coming weeks.

Senator Allen adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kenneth H. Osborne Jr.
Committee Clerk

Jason E. Allen
Chairman

Date Approved by Committee