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earth's ozone layer. "This is the biggest hoax ever pulled on the American people and the world," Shurden said of the restriction.

"The scientific facts indicate, first, that there is no observational evidence that human-made chemicals like CFCs are dangerously thinning the ozone layer over most of the world," said Sallie Baliunas in a statement contained in material distributed by Shurden.

Some are questioning why a state law to the contrary is necessary, given the federal regulation. "In the event that this bill moves forward," said Department of Environmental Quality Executive Director Mark Coleman, "put something in it to make sure that people understand that they would still be in violation of federal law."

Coleman said the bill, essentially, accomplished nothing. "It doesn't effect anything," he said. "It's a wash, except for maybe misleading the consumer."

The cost of replacing the automotive air conditioners and refrigerators that run on Freon has been a concern of supporters of the bill. Sometimes reaching as high as several thousand dollars, the cost of replacing Freon based units can be expensive. "I think we are premature in replacing Freon all together," said Sen. Mike Fair, R-Oklahoma City. "This will be a tremendous cost to the American people — By doing this, we are indirectly taxing the American people trillions of dollars."

An amendment to the bill, attempting to remove all references to the manufacturing of CFCs failed.

A narrow victory, the measure passed with a vote of 6 to 5.

"If this is a problem in Washington," said Sen. Don Williams, D-Balko, "let's go to Washington to fix it."

Other measures addressed by the committee include **HB2197**, a committee substitute by Sen. Kevin Easley, D-Broken Arrow. The measure modifies language relating to the Rural Water, Sewer, Gas and Solid Waste Management District Act, expanding municipality limits to include any area included within the boundaries of any city, town or village as a result of incorporation, annexation, population growth or otherwise. The measure was given a do pass motion.

HB2408, a committee substitute by Sen. J. Berry Harrison, D-Fairfax, states that no district shall export water or gas outside the state without the consent of the Legislature. The measure, with a stricken title, received a do pass motion.

HB2416, by Easley, allows an equal number of years of employment with the Corporation Commission as a field inspector to qualify an applicant for employment with the Conservation Commission for positions requiring experience in the production of oil and gas. The measure's title was stricken and it was given a do pass motion.

HB2856, by Easley, creates the Oklahoma Underground Storage Tank Regulation Act and creates a separate program for its implementation. After having its enacting clause stricken, the measure received a do pass motion.

HB2857, by Easley, provides that the production of oil from each marginal well in the state that produces less than three barrels per day shall be exempt from gross production tax. After having its enacting clause stricken, the measure was given a do pass motion.

HB2874, by Easley, changes the membership of the Oklahoma Energy Resources Board. An amendment to the measure created an alternate refund mechanism, making it easier for customers to receive refunds. The bill was given a do pass motion.

HB2921, by Easley, adds specific telecommunication companies to be subjected to the Corporation Commission public utilities assessment. The bill received a do pass motion.

HB2972, by Sen. Penny Williams, D-Tulsa, creates the Oklahoma voluntary Remediation and Redevelopment Act. The act encourages voluntary remediation of contaminated sites by limiting the liability of property owners. It also fosters reuse of property previously contaminated and establishes a voluntary site remediation program to assist property owners. After having its enacting clause stricken, the measure received a do pass motion.