

STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED

GAS CAP INTEGRITY BILL PASSES HOUSE

■(GIT) The House on Wednesday gave approval to the so-called gas cap integrity bill, a bill its author said is designed to help Tulsa and possibly Oklahoma counties deal with air quality issues.

Rep. Russ Roach, D-Tulsa and author of **HB2346**, called the proposal "the best option" for municipalities in trouble with the Environmental Protection Agency to deal with air quality issues.

Under the terms of the bill, local government entities would be able to enact ordinances mandating gas cap integrity tests. Those tests would determine whether a gas cap properly seals a gas tank and prevents the loss of ozone-damaging fumes.

Municipalities could only enact such ordinances, Roach told House members, when cited by the EPA for violations of air quality standards.

Without the proposed law, Roach also said, counties with air quality problems, most notably Tulsa County, could find themselves under orders from the EPA to sell only gasoline reformulated to diminish emissions or limited in their industrial development capabilities.

Rep. Forrest Claunch, R-Midwest City, joined Roach in support of the bill.

Rep. Richard Phillips, R-Warr Acres, disagreed with Claunch and Roach, warning that the bill could lead to conflicts between individual cities within one county and between city and county governments.

Those favoring the bill and its conference committee report outnumbered those against it by a nearly three-to-one margin, and a motion to adopt the bill's conference committee report received a passing vote of 70-29. The bill itself received a 70-28 passing vote and now heads to the Senate for consideration.

—SHAWN ASHLEY
05/22/96

GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

SENATE TOURISM CONFIRMS SIX, DEBATE OVER WEST

■(GIT) The Senate Committee on Tourism and Recreation met Monday, confirming six of Governor Frank Keating's appointments to related agencies. Debate and a motion to table the nomination of one appointee dis-

rupted the otherwise smooth flow of confirmations.

John West, of Elk City, was appointed by the governor to serve a six year term on the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Board. Succeeding himself, West met with resistance from Sen. Robert M. Kerr, D-Altus, who moved to table his nomination.

Kerr said, though he bears no ill will toward him, West had requested a study to consider alternative locations for the fire-ravaged Quartz Mountain. After the study was completed, West decided to rebuild the facility on its present site.

As a result of the study, considerable time and money was wasted, time and money that could have been invested in rebuilding the facility.

West said additional money should be spent on the facility. He added, also, that the state should consider looking into private industry funding for the state's lodges, saying it would be better to look to people who would be willing to spend "more money than we [the state] would."

Additional resistance came from Sen. Maxine Horner, D-Tulsa. She cited reports from sources in Elk City that point to West's tendency to "micro-manage" staff members.

West denied the reports, saying no one from Elk City had ever contacted him on any issue related to tourism.

Senate Majority Leader Billy Mickel, D-Durant, was present to support the West nomination, casting his vote against the tabling motion.

After receiving only three votes, from Kerr, Sen. Gerald "Ged" Wright, R-Broken Arrow, and Committee Chairman Sen. Dave Herbert, D-Midwest City, the tabling motion was defeated. Horner abstained from the vote.

Sponsored by Sen. Gilmer Capps, D-Snyder, West was confirmed to the post. His term ends July 1, 2002. He succeeds himself.

Other Keating appointees include Joanna Champlin, of Oklahoma City. She was confirmed to a position on the State Arts Council. Sponsored by Sen. Brooks Douglass, R-Oklahoma City, she will serve a three year term, ending July 1, 1999.

Charlotte Dodson, of Oklahoma City, was also confirmed to the State Arts Council. Sponsored by Sen. Keith Leftwich, D-Oklahoma City, she will serve a three year term, ending July 1, 1999.

Linda Frasier, of Tulsa, was also appointed to the Arts Council. Sponsored by Sen. Penny Williams, D-Tulsa, she will serve a three year term, ending July 1, 1999.

Also sponsored by Williams, Patrick D. Lester, of Tulsa, was appointed to the State Arts Council. He will serve a three year term, ending July 1, 1999.

Kathryn Walker, of Richardson, will also serve a three year term on the Arts Council. Sponsored by Herbert, her term will expire July 1, 1999.

Frank Merrick, of Oklahoma City, withdrew his nomination to the Arts Council.

—BRANDON BEARD
05/20/96

SENATE EDUCATION CONFIRMS KEATING APPOINTEES

■(GIT) Members of the Senate Committee on Education met Monday to confirm several of Governor Frank Keating's appointees to related agencies. The confirmations came in two parts, as the committee met in the morning and again in the afternoon.

Brad Barron, of Talala, was confirmed to a position on the Board of Regents of University Center at Tulsa and Rogers State College. Sponsored by Sen. Stratton Taylor, D-Claremore, he will serve a nine year term, ending June 30, 2005.

Beverly Carter, of Oklahoma City, was confirmed to the board of Regents for the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma. Sponsored by Sen. Brooks Douglass, R-Oklahoma City, she will serve a seven year term, ending June 30, 2003.

Mary Gates, of Stigler, was confirmed to a position on the Board of Regents of Carl Albert State College. Sponsored by Sen. Gene Stipe, D-McAlester, she will serve a seven year term, ending July 1, 2003.

David R. Guthery, of Tulsa, was confirmed to the Board of Regents of Tulsa Junior College. Sponsored by Sen. Penny Williams, D-Tulsa, he will serve an unexpired term, ending June 30, 1997.

Ernest Hellwege, of Kingfisher, was confirmed to a position on the Board of Regents of Redlands Community College. Sponsored by Sen. Bill Gustafson, R-El Reno, he will serve a seven year term, ending April 22, 2003.

William Miligan, of McAlester, was confirmed to a position on the Board of Regents of Eastern Oklahoma State College. Also

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