Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Appropriations

Research, Education, and Economic Development (REED) Network

The Subcommittee on REED was formed to monitor the negotiations and progress of the high-speed network project. The oversight was to be done through quarterly reports submitted by both the Board of Regents (BOR) and the Bureau of Information and Telecommunications (BIT) during the interim. Each report was to include revised project timelines, budget status, and any other pertinent information.

A Joint Powers Agreement between the Board of Regents and the Bureau of Information and Telecommunications was drafted during session. The two parties were requested to finalize the agreement and both were to approve it by the last day of the 2008 Legislative Session. The document remains incomplete.

The quarterly reports requested through the Letters of Intent from the Joint Committee on Appropriations were submitted by BIT on June 23 and October 21, however, the Board of Regents submitted only one report on June 23.

It is in the best interests of the State of South Dakota to clearly define the requirements of each entity's (BOR and BIT) role immediately. It is evident that the two have not come to an agreement on their roles, duties, or financial responsibilities.

Recommendation

The REED Network project is enormous – in complexity and price. It is the recommendation of the subcommittee that new members be appointed and the monitoring process continue.

Senator Orville Smidt Date

Senator Ryan Maher Date

Representative Justin Davis Date

Representative Quinton Burg Date

Representative H. Paul Dennert Date