



**House Committee on Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications**

**Testimony in Support of House Bill 2227**

**Presented by Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs, Kansas Chamber**

**Tuesday, February 7, 2023**

Mister Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber. The Kansas Chamber represents small, medium and large businesses of all industry segments across the state. We appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2227.

HB 2227 would allow “renewable energy suppliers” to enter into power purchase agreements (PPA) to provide energy directly to customers as a cheaper alternative to electricity provided by a utility. Kansas law currently restricts such agreements to utilities as the only party allowed to establish PPA’s.

Our 2023 legislative agenda contains an energy policy position to “Support policies that create equal competition among energy sources and technologies.” As technology and innovation creates new opportunities to deliver services to customers, in this case the service of power, state law should encourage competition and not prevent it from the marketplace. PPA’s are not a new concept. Twenty-seven states currently allow such agreements. Kansas is one of seven states to expressly prohibit PPA’s. In the last decade, Kansas has seen its competitive position slip from 14<sup>th</sup> lowest average energy costs to 34<sup>th</sup>. Our ratepayer members continue to express concern over rising energy costs and we support any effort by the Legislature to relieve pressure on the costs impacting businesses operating in the state.

In closing, we respectfully ask the committee to support House Bill 2227 and expand options for consumers who are seeking cheaper energy alternatives from Kansas’ high electricity rates and I’m happy to answer questions at the appropriate time.