

February 7, 2023

To: House Committee on Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications

Rep. Leo Delperdang, Chair; Rep. Carl Turner, Vice Chair; Rep. KC Ohaebosim, Ranking Minority Member; Rep. Francis Averkamp, member; Rep. Emil Bergquist, member; Rep. Jesse Borjon, member; Rep. John Carmichael, member; Rep. Lynn Melton, member; Rep. Cindy Neighbor, member; Rep. Patrick Penn, member; Rep. Samantha Poetter Parshall, member; Rep. Pat Proctor, member; Rep. Webster T. Roth, member; Rep. Tobias Schlingensiepen, member; Rep. Mark Schreiber, member; Rep. Chuck Smith, member; Rep. Laura Williams, member.

From: Carol Barta, Flint Hills Renewable Energy and Efficiency Cooperative

Re: HB2228

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of House Bill 2228.

In 2011 a small group of solar energy enthusiasts founded the Flint Hills Renewable Energy and Efficiency Cooperative, also known as FHREEC (pronounced freak), because we believed that the ability to run a house or business using solar power should be available to everyone. We built our model on the cooperative idea : buying wholesale and assisting home and business owners to install photovoltaic systems themselves. The sweat equity made solar power affordable to many folks. We have over 100 installation in the Flint Hills region and a bit beyond.

House Bill 2228 is important because more and more homeowners have become interested in producing some or all of their electricity needs on site. Some Kansas do this because they feel strongly about the environment, but an equal number of Kansans choose distributed generation for the self-sufficiency and independence it gives them. Raising the limit from 1% to 10% of peak load allows more people to participate.

We also appreciate the language in the bill that creates a standard formula for sizing solar arrays to the needs of the household. There is one caveat to this, as more people purchase plug-in electric vehicles they will need to be allowed to increase their arrays to meet the increased demand for power.

This bill moves Kansas in the right direction toward an energy independent state that takes advantage of the solar and wind power we have in such abundance. We know that this will continue to be vital to the State of Kansas well beyond the original 2030 cutoff. Kansans have a bright future with renewable energy.

Thank you for your time.