



Date: February 7th, 2023

To: House Committee on Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications
Representative Leo Delperdang, Chair

From: Justin Cobb, Government Relations Manager
The Nature Conservancy in Kansas

RE: Written Proponent Testimony – HB 2227

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2227. The Nature Conservancy is a nonpartisan, conservation nonprofit that has worked for over 30 years in Kansas to fulfill our mission of preserving the lands and water on which all life depends. We have permanently conserved over 150,000 acres in Kansas including five preserves that are open to the public. We are dedicated to protecting the natural heritage of the state by pursuing science-based initiatives, including the use and adoption of renewable energy.

The best conservation and environmental initiatives are those that are done voluntarily and that benefit both the user and their community. The ability for a home or business to acquire solar systems is one such initiative. Increasing the use of renewable energy supports a more sustainable economy through a lower cost of living and reduced emissions.

However, there is often an upfront cost associated with acquiring and installing these systems that prevents many consumers from taking advantage of their benefits. A Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) removes this barrier and increases the accessibility to solar power by authorizing a third-party to install and own the system while the consumer purchases the power at a lower rate than their usual utility cost.

There is no reason for PPA ability to be limited to utilities. The 2023 legislative session has seen several bills aimed at decreasing the monopoly utilities hold over the power market. Opening up PPAs to free market competition would be another tool for Kansans to decrease their electric bill. Kansas being one of seven states to prevent citizens from exercising this option is an outlier from the state's historical economic approach.

We encourage the legislature to support HB 2227 and give Kansans the ability to access cheaper and cleaner energy.