

**Testimony of Kansans for Lower Electric Rates (KLER) and
Kansas Industrial Consumers Group (KIC)
In Support of House Bill 2228
Before the House Energy, Utilities & Telecom Committee
February 7, 2023**

Kansas residential customers, businesses and organizations are struggling with high electricity costs. While many homeowners may invest in solar for its environmental benefits, businesses choose to invest because of the energy cost savings potential. It has to make economic sense. And with increasing electric costs, the payback for solar becomes much more attractive.

Kansas has a relatively short history with net metering. Development of systems was slow to develop at the beginning, mostly limited to residential customers. However, times are changing and the solar industry is more competitive than ever. It's time to update our net metering policies to keep pace with consumer trends and desires.

Many KIC & KLER members do not benefit from net metering because of the low capacity limit of 100kW. Even the 250kW limit proposed in this bill would still be too low for many businesses. For example, the Ikea store in Merriam, KS in 2015 installed a 730kW system. For large businesses to take advantage of net metering, the capacity limit should be closer to 1MW or above, as it is in many states.

For businesses, the opportunity to invest in solar or other means to self-generate electricity is a matter of economic freedom. We urge the committee to support this bill.

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The Kansas Industrial Consumers Group (KIC) is a coalition of large-volume energy users in Kansas. The members collectively represent billions of dollars of investment in the State and employ thousands of Kansans. Kansans for Lower Electric Rates (KLER) is an advocacy project of KIC with members of all sizes. We believe high energy costs are negatively impacting residential consumers, schools, hospitals, and large and small businesses.