

Written Testimony in Support of HB 2527
Committee on Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications
February 6, 2024

Chairman Delperdang and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Salina Community Economic Development Organization, please accept this letter of support for House Bill 2527.

The Salina Community Economic Development Organization is the economic development marketing organization supported by the City, County, Chamber and Airport Authority to create new jobs and bring investment to Salina and Saline County. We have been very fortunate to have worked with over \$1 B in new and expanding industries over the past three years. I personally have worked in economic development for 40 years in Kentucky, Missouri and now Kansas for the past seven years in five communities. I have seen the importance of electricity capacity and service go from one of several factors to now along with workforce the two top items for location decisions.

HB 2527 will put Kansas on a much greater competitive footing against Missouri and other neighboring states. Our current Economic Development Rider is for only 5 years. This bill would extend the EDR to 10 years. This bill would also change the way the company can account for investment in new facilities that generate and distribute power. The capacity that Kansas needs now, and in the future, requires a change to the PISA system. This would put Kansas on a better footing for investing in new capacity. The growth in energy demand has changed greatly over the past 3 years. Projects require more power which means more private capital is needed for these projects.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please reach out to me any time. HB 2527 is a critical piece of legislation for the future of Kansas.

Sincerely,



D. Mitch Robinson, CECD
Executive Director