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February 6, 2024

House Committee on Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications
Testimony of Glenda DuBoise, AARP Kansas
Opposing Written and Oral Testimony
House Bill 2527

Good morning, Chairman Delperdang and members of the Committee. My name is Glenda DuBoise, and I am the State Director for AARP Kansas. Thank you for allowing us to provide our testimony in opposition to HB 2527.

AARP has more than 278,000 members in Kansas. We are a non-profit, non-partisan organization that works across Kansas to strengthen communities and advocate for issues that matter most to seniors and their families, such as healthcare, retirement savings, and protection from abuse or financial exploitation. We also advocate for fair and affordable utility rates.

For seniors on a fixed income, it is important for their utility bills to be reasonably priced and predictable. Given the monopoly power of utilities, Kansas consumers—and especially seniors—need to be protected by robust mechanisms to ensure fairness in the pricing of these vital services.

Many aspects of the bill are troubling to us. For example, the bill would mandate the return for transmission investment, raising costs to consumers, and AARP strongly opposes



surcharge ratemaking as well as construction work in progress (CWIP) cost-recovery.

Our overriding concern is that the bill would strip away important powers of the Kansas Corporation Commission. The KCC has been entrusted since 1911 to carefully balance the interests of a utility and its customers to ensure that rates will result in a reasonable return on equity for the utility and reasonable costs to Kansas consumers. This careful balancing of interests, based upon a careful investigation of the facts, would be undermined by HB 2527.

AARP opposes this bill because it ties the hands of the KCC in future rate cases and limits its ability to set just and reasonable rates. The bottom line is that HB 2527 is likely to lead to substantial rate increases for consumers without any corresponding benefits. For these reasons and more, we respectfully ask you to vote against the bill.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Glenda DuBoise". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Glenda DuBoise
State Director, AARP Kansas