

February 8, 2023

To: Senate Committee on Assessment and Taxation

Sen. Caryn Tyson, Chair; Sen. Virgil Peck, Vice Chair; Se. Tom Holland, Ranking Minority Member; Sen. Molly Baumgardner, member; Sen. Chase Blasi, member; Sen. J. R. Claeys, member; Sen. Ethan Corson, member; Sen. Renee Erickson, member; Sen. Dan Kerschen, member; Sen. Mike Petersen, member; Sen. Usha Reddi, member.

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

Re: SB126

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of Senate Bill 126.

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.

Senate Bill 126 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. Allowing a Kansas tax credit for the installation of renewable energy increases the affordability of these systems to middle income Kansans.

This small, but important tax credit can help our renewable energy business sector grow as well as helping homeowners control their energy costs in a fluctuating market.

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. Kansans have a bright future with renewable energy.

Thank you for your time.