



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

P.O. Box 4267, Topeka, KS 66604-0267 • 7332 SW 21st Street, Topeka, KS 66615 • 785-478-4554 • Fax: 785-478-4852 • www.kec.coop

SENATE COMMITTEE ON UTILITIES

Proponent Testimony

SB 456 – Establishing a Rebuttable Presumption Against the Retirement of Fossil Fuel-Fired Electric Generating Units

Feb. 15, 2024

**Presented by:
Reagan McCloud, Manager of Government Relations
Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc.**

Chairman Fagg, Vice Chair Petersen, Ranking Member Francisco, and members of the Senate Committee on Utilities, thank you for the opportunity to submit comments in support of SB 456. I am Reagan McCloud, Manager of Government Relations for Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (KEC), the statewide service association for 29 member, not-for-profit cooperatives providing electric service in 103 of 105 Kansas counties.

Electric cooperatives, on both the national and state level, have highlighted emerging issues concerning reliability in the recent past. From supply chain issues, to permitting restrictions, federal regulatory overreaches and beyond, reliability is the imminent threat facing rural electric cooperatives in Kansas.

Grid reliability cannot be taken for granted. It requires a diverse mix of generation resources, robust physical and cyber security protections, and crucial and timely investments into electric infrastructure.

While renewable generation sources play a key role in the nationwide electric grid, baseload, always-available power remains the bedrock to grid reliability. KEC supports SB 456 as it prioritizes reliability and the importance of dispatchable electricity in the overall reliability of rural Kansans' power supply.

Reagan McCloud

Manager of Government Relations
Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc.
(316)-217-5633