



House Committee on Taxation

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 51

Presented by Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs

Thursday, March 6, 2025

Mister Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber. The Kansas Chamber appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 51, which provides a sales tax incentive for the construction of data centers in the state.

SB 51 provides data centers with a similar sales tax exemption to what exists already for other industries, such as manufacturing machinery and equipment, and ag equipment. As we seek ways to grow as a state and improve our competitiveness around private investment, exempting business inputs is a positive position to take as a state. Attracting these expensive investments only happens if we can provide a similar competitive landscape as we do for other industries, as other states proactively seek to attract investment in their states.

Data centers are in high demand, and while we initially had concerns about their energy needs and the impact to existing ratepayers in the state, we believe between the language in SB 51, and Evergy's high-energy user tariff filed recently with the KCC, those concerns have been alleviated.

In closing, we would encourage the committee to support Senate Bill 51 as a policy to support industries investing in data center infrastructure. We appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 51, and I am happy to answer any questions at the appropriate time.