

Before the Senate Utilities Committee

February 12, 2025

Neutral Testimony on Senate Bill 170

Submitted by Lynn Retz, Director Government Relations
On Behalf of The Staff of the Kansas Corporation Commission

Chair Fagg, Vice Chair Petersen, Ranking Minority Member Francisco, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today on behalf of the Staff of the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC or Commission).

The Staff of the Commission (Staff) is neutral towards the passage of SB 170. With regard to the modification to Section 1(b) we are not opposed to providing recommendations around energy efficiency standards for residential, commercial or industrial structures. Were this bill to become law, we would likely utilize a consultant to identify building code standards across the state and identify best practices around building codes for residential, commercial, and industrial. We would conduct this in a fuel source neutral perspective. Currently the KCC Energy Division has a DOE approved project to identify building code standards across the state to evaluate the current status of standards being applied. After identifying the various standards that have been adopted across the state the project would develop educational information to assist communities in understanding best practices and the tangible and non-tangible benefits to building code standards. This project was identified for commencement in FY2026, contingent on funding. Again, this project would be conducted from a neutral perspective without incentivizing a fuel source.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer our perspective on the proposed bill and the opportunity to appear before your committee.