



Since 1894



Date: February 27, 2025

To: Senate Committee on Utilities
Sen. Michael Fagg, Chair

From: Jackie Garagiola, Associate Counsel, Kansas Livestock Association
Claudia Hissong, State Affairs Manager, Kansas Farm Bureau

Re: **HB 2040 AN ACT concerning the state corporation commission; relating to electric transmission line siting permits; extending the time in which the commission shall make a final order on an electric transmission line siting application.**

Position: Proponent, Written Only

The Kansas Livestock Association (KLA), formed in 1894, is a trade association representing more than 5,700 members on legislative and regulatory issues. KLA members are involved in many aspects of the livestock industry, including seed stock, cow-calf, and stocker cattle production; cattle feeding; dairy production; swine production; grazing land management; and diversified farming operations.

Kansas Farm Bureau (KFB) is the state's largest general farm organization representing more than 30,000 farm and ranch families through our 105 county Farm Bureau associations.

Thank you, Chairman Fagg, and members of the Committee, for allowing the Kansas Livestock Association (KLA) and Kansas Farm Bureau (KFB) the opportunity to share our views on HB 2040 which would extend the time in which the state corporation commission shall make a final order on a transmission line siting application from 120 days to 180 days.

As a general matter, KLA and KFB members believe in the protection of private property rights. In Kansas, there are 45,759,319 acres of farm and ranchland, which accounts for 87.5% of all Kansas land. As the largest class of landowners and operators in the state, Kansas' farmers and ranchers are greatly impacted by the development and implementation of new transmission projects. KLA and KFB support HB 2040 as a means to improve the line siting process.

The time allotted in the line siting process for public comment and landowner response is critical to developing a workable route for all parties. Extending the time the Commission is given to enter into a final order for a line siting application could allow additional opportunities for public and landowner input and promotes transparency and clarity in the process. KLA and KFB appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony as a proponent of HB 2040 and ask that the Committee recommend the bill favorable for passage.