



Neutral Testimony Regarding HB 2040 (written only)
Laura Lutz, Director, Government Affairs, Evergy
For the Senate Committee on Utilities

February 27, 2025

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, for the opportunity to comment on House Bill 2040, which extends the time in which the state corporation commission (Commission) shall make a final order on a transmission line siting application. We are testifying neutral on today's bill. However, as a Kansas company that has interacted with landowners for decades on infrastructure siting, we wanted to take the opportunity to speak briefly to the impact this bill could have.

We have a strong history of engagement with Kansas landowners, and the existing, shorter timeline within which we've worked for years has served the process well.

Lengthening the approval process has the potential to impact electric reliability. While 60 additional days may not seem like a lot of time, it can dramatically slow the process on everything else we need to do when siting infrastructure, including acquiring equipment. That 60 days can make a difference when we are competing for transformers, conductors and even labor. In addition, going forward, Evergy will likely have large load customers locating in its service territory, and the ability to timely site the infrastructure that these companies need must also be considered in the overall project timeline.

We have discussed with Commission staff and appreciate their willingness to act as expeditiously as possible in any such docket.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 2040.

www.evergy.com