



Testimony offered to the Senate Committee on Utilities
In Support of House Bill 2107
Mike Morley, Director of Government Affairs
Midwest Energy, Inc.
March 6, 2025

Chairman Fagg and members of the Committee:

I am Mike Morley, Director of Communications and Government Affairs at Midwest Energy, a customer-owned electric and natural gas cooperative based in Hays serving 50,000 electric customers in 28 central and western Kansas counties. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony in support of HB 2107 on behalf of Midwest Energy.

Midwest Energy supports this bill, which takes a critical and timely step toward establishing protocols for wildfire risk assessment and mitigation by the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC).

Electric utilities are committed to safety and reliability, but the growing risk of wildfires presents unique challenges. By requiring the KCC to develop training opportunities focused on wildfire risk, utility readiness, mitigation strategies, and cost recovery options, this bill ensures that all Kansas electric utilities – including electric cooperatives, municipal utilities, and investor-owned utilities - are equipped with consistent, best-practice approaches to reduce fire hazards. Standardized guidance and training will enhance coordination between utilities, emergency responders, and state agencies, leading to more effective risk mitigation and a proactive approach to wildfire prevention. By identifying cost-effective strategies for wildfire preparedness, utilities can implement solutions that protect Kansas communities while maintaining affordable energy for consumers.

For these reasons, we respectfully request the committee to advance this bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mike Morley

Director, Corporate Communications and Government Affairs
Midwest Energy, Inc.