

**Testimony of Kansans for Lower Electric Rates (KLER) and
Kansas Industrial Consumers Group (KIC)
In Support of Substitute for House Bill 2149
Before the Senate Utilities Committee
March 17, 2025**

Kansas residential customers, businesses and organizations are struggling with high electricity costs. While many homeowners may invest in solar for its environmental benefits, businesses choose to invest because of the energy cost savings potential. It has to make economic sense.

Building on the success of last year's HB 2588, which updated net metering statutes, Substitute for HB 2149 seeks to bring the same modernization to parallel generation.

I applaud the participating utilities for working collaboratively with the solar industry on Sub. for HB 2149. The bill does three important things:

1. Provides certainty the solar industry can continue effectively using parallel generation
2. Increases the size of systems customers can connect
3. Clarifies definitions as parallel generation and the solar industry evolves

There is one part of the bill that creates some concern – 66-1,184 (i)(1) on page 12:

A utility shall not be required to make parallel generation service available to any customer who has a new or expanded facility that receives electric service at a voltage of 34.5 kilovolts or higher and commences such electric service on or after July 1, 2025.

This is a significant last-minute change with clear challenges for large customers to effectively manage their energy needs and to maintain equal standing with other customers. However, the one-year sunset in (i)(3) alleviates most of my concern.

Overall, for businesses, the opportunity to invest in solar or other means to self-generate electricity is a matter of economic freedom. This bill helps provide clear rules for how that can occur. We urge committee support of Substitute for HB 2149.

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The Kansas Industrial Consumers Group (KIC) is a coalition of large-volume energy users in Kansas. The members collectively represent billions of dollars of investment in the State and employ thousands of Kansans. Kansans for Lower Electric Rates (KLER) is an advocacy project of KIC with members of all sizes. We believe high energy costs are negatively impacting residential consumers, schools, hospitals, and large and small businesses.