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SENATE COMMITTEE ON UTILITIES

Proponent Testimony

House Sub for HB 2149 – Consumer Protections and Parallel Generation Statute Changes

March 14, 2025

Presented by:

**Reagan McCloud, Director of Government Relations
Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc.**

Chairman Fagg, Vice Chair Petersen, Ranking Member Francisco, and members of the Senate Committee on Utilities, thank you for the opportunity to submit proponent testimony on behalf of Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (KEC) and our members concerning House substitute for HB 2149. I am Reagan McCloud, and I serve as Director of Government Relations for KEC, the statewide service association for 29 member, not-for-profit cooperatives providing electric service in 103 of 105 Kansas counties.

KEC opposed HB 2149 as it was initially proposed before the House Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Telecommunications. However, after the bill's initial hearing on March 6 and the ensuing negotiations, KEC stands as a proponent of the substitute legislation as presented to this committee today. As all interested stakeholders came together under a tightened time frame, KEC believes the resulting legislation before you today is a reasonable compromise that fairly considers all parties' concerns. As is the case with any compromise, we believe the legislation isn't perfect, but we remain willing to continue working with stakeholders into the future on potential fixes when necessary.

House substitute for HB 2149 contains important consumer protection provisions for rooftop solar purchasers that aren't available under current law. Complaints from consumers taken advantage of by fly-by-night salespeople flooded electric cooperatives and the Kansas Attorney General's office over the last year, and the changes contained in the substitute bill are both well-needed and appreciated.

Furthermore, the legislation takes necessary steps to minimize the cross-subsidization authorized by current law between rooftop solar-owning members and non-rooftop solar-owning members. Electric cooperatives are member-governed and member-focused and determined to ensure price fairness among its ratepayers. This legislation takes significant strides to accomplish that goal, and we appreciate the painstaking negotiations that stakeholders went through to assure that fact.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide proponent testimony on this heavily negotiated compromise legislation. I'm happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.

Reagan McCloud

Director of Government Relations
Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc.