

Before the House Local Government Committee

Presented by Alan Bauman, Private Citizen

Proponent to HB 2268

2/14/2024

Dear Chair Bergquist and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 2268 which would allow Kansans the freedom to install solar on their homes regardless of their Homeowners Association (HOA).

Why do I care? As a homeowner in an HOA that has solar rooftop restrictions, I resent the opportunity to reduce my high utility bill. The placement of a rooftop solar unit will not only save me money, but will also increase the value of my house, if I decide to sell. Additionally, I am eligible for a 30% tax credit. These restrictions are financially punitive for myself and other Kansans.

Nearly 30 states have solar access laws, including Iowa, Texas, Colorado, Indiana, Wisconsin, Ohio, Florida, and nearly all western states. The Missouri Legislature recently passed their solar access law in 2022. With a top 10 solar resource, the people of Kansas deserve to be allowed to install solar regardless of the rules of their HOA.

There are thousands of HOAS in Kansas. It is not feasible to contact each HOA individually.

Kansas City has large power outages, once or twice a year. This are usually during the summer or winter. A home with solar rooftop will serve as an emergency shelter for those neighbors without power. I remember after a hurricane in Texas, having the only home with power in a several block radius. It was a blessing to serve as a cooling station for my neighbors in the hot muggy Texas summer.

This debate reminds me of the requirement for wood shingles, when I first moved into my HOA. Repeal of this requirement took a legal battle that took in excess of 10 years. The result? Two years after the repeal, over half the homes had composite, slate or tile shingles of all colors. Yet, none of my neighbors complained, and house values rose!

Because solar offers positive advantages for me personally, and fellow Kansans, I urge you to pass HB 2268 this year. We deserve the freedom to have rooftop solar.

Thank you for your attention,

Sincerely,

Alan Bauman, Private Citizen

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