

Before the House Local Government Committee  
Presented by Zack Pistora, Kansas Sierra Club  
Proponent to HB 2268  
2-14-24



Dear Chairman 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).

**The Kansas Sierra Club supports the rights of homeowners to be able to install solar panels and believes HOAs should not disallow communities to have solar access.**

Americans are increasingly going solar to reduce their home electric bills and help the environment, particularly as the cost of solar panels continues to drop. As a result, more communities and states are rewriting their outdated restrictive covenants and adopting state laws to allow solar access.

**As of 2023, 29 states have solar access laws, including Missouri, Iowa, Texas, Colorado, Indiana, Wisconsin, Ohio, Florida, and nearly all western and northeastern states,** according to the DSIRE database hosted by N.C. State University. The Missouri Legislature passed their solar access law in 2022.

While several HOAs in Kansas do allow solar, we know of several Kansans that have been prohibited from installing solar because of solar-restrictive covenants, many of which were adopted decades earlier. As far as we can tell, the primary concern against solar panels has been on reasons of aesthetics, but solar panels have come a long way in design and visual appeal. Most panels and racking systems today have thin, sleek, and visually minimal attributes. Some new solar panel technology can lay flush with the roof itself or resemble shingles. Of course, a solar panel pergola or canopy can make for energy-positive, shaded area that offers outdoor enjoyment.

**With modern solar panel technology and the growing local and regional need for additional power supply in Kansas, Homeowners Associations should not be blocking residents from going solar. Unnecessary and unfair red tape, like rooftop solar restrictions by HOAs, are a real obstacle preventing more Kansans from going solar.**

Kansas is considered being in the top 10 for best solar resource among U.S. states, but unfortunately, our state is currently in the bottom 10 (#44) among states for solar energy. The 2020 rate study by AECOM commissioned by the Legislature concluded that more solar PV adoption will help reduce electric rates.

Solar energy is a great way to reduce energy bills, improve the comfort and value of a home, and support local businesses. The State should be encouraging more Kansans to take advantage of a local energy resource that helps both the environment and the electrical grid.

Given lawmakers concern for individual freedoms, liberty, and limited government, the time has come for the Kansas Legislature to help Kansans secure the right to install solar if they want to.

**Because solar offers positive advantages for one's home, community, and Kansas at-large, we urge you to pass HB 2268 this year to secure the freedom for Kansans to have rooftop solar no matter their HOA.**

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Zack Pistora | Legislative Director and State Lobbyist, Kansas Chapter of Sierra Club

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*The Sierra Club is the largest grassroots organization dedicated to enjoying, exploring, and protecting our great outdoors. The Kansas Chapter has been our state's strongest grassroots voice on environmental matters for fifty years.*