

**Before the House Local Government Committee
Presented by Joseph Madden, Private Citizen
Proponent to HB 2268
2-14-24**

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).

In 2021, when my wife and I wanted to install solar panels in our neighborhood (Reflection Ridge in Wichita, KS), we initially faced resistance from our HOA, but were able to help our HOA establish a new [architectural guideline](#) for solar. Since then, there are at least 5 homes that have installed solar in our neighborhood with no issues.

In our case, after installing solar, our home equity went up \$40K and since Nov 2021 we have generated 37,895 kWh of electricity and saved approximately \$4K on our electric bills. My own experience in our neighborhood is proof that an HOA can impose fair and reasonable quality standards without infringing on the rights of an individual to enjoy the benefits of solar.

Sadly, some other HOAs here in Wichita have banned solar altogether or imposed arbitrary restrictions that make it cost prohibitive, trampling on individual rights so badly that it made the newspapers here at least twice! With modern solar panel technology and the growing local and regional need for additional power supply in Kansas, HOAs should not be blocking residents from going solar.

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.

Because solar offers positive advantages for one's home, community, and Kansas at-large, I 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,

Joseph Madden, Private Citizen

Wichita, KS

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