



SB 68 Opponent; Written Only; For 2-8-2023

By Gonzalo Garcia, City of Gardner; ggarcia@gardnerkansas.com; 913-856-0990

February 3, 2023

Senator Rob Olson
Chairman, Senate Utilities Committee
State Capital
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Mr. Chairman,

The City of Gardner, Kansas (Gardner) operates a municipal electric utility serving our 9,235 customers through a 12,470 Volt distribution grid and a 161,000 Volt transmission grid. Gardner owns and operates two gas turbines, but purchases the majority of its power requirements from outside sources, and this power is delivered to Gardner through the Evergy transmission system.

Gardner opposes the ROFR bill, SB 68 legislation as it could restrict our right to service our customers and ratepayers with reasonable and needed improvements to build and service our transmission systems. Gardner currently owns and operates three 161,000 Volt substations and four miles of 161,000 Volt transmission lines. We are interconnected at three separate locations with Evergy. Gardner is currently considering the construction of a fourth 161,000 Volt substation and associated transmission lines in order to improve the reliability of our system and service to our customers. This proposed legislation, if passed as written, could prohibit the City from completing these projects. In addition, the City has access to tax-exempt financing which would provide lower project costs and less pressure on rates for our customers.

This letter is written in opposition to legislation that would be detrimental to the City of Gardner.

Sincerely,

Gonzalo Garcia

Gonzalo Garcia
Utilities Director
City of Gardner, Kansas