

**Testimony of Kansans for Lower Electric Rates (KLER) and
Kansas Industrial Consumers Group (KIC)
Neutral on Senate Bill 455
Before the Senate Utilities Committee
February 14, 2024**

Electric reliability is critical to every Kansan, but KIC & KLER question whether SB 455 is needed at this time.

The KCC is currently doing what SB 455 suggests, providing rate recovery for assets that aren't used in the traditional sense. Evergy's coal and gas plants have been running less and less each year yet they are still fully in rates. In fact, KIC & KLER are in support of SB 456, which aims to keep coal plants in service. However, there is no current issue that SB 455 corrects.

Still, in the spirit of compromise, KIC & KLER are willing to collaborate with Evergy on a path forward, likely combining SB 455 and SB 456.

A related issue the state should be focused on is the lack of SPP contributions to pay for Kansas assets supporting the SPP. Coal plants operated by Evergy and other providers in Kansas provide baseload and reliability support for all of the SPP. However, customers in other states don't pay Evergy for this service, creating an unfair balance leaving Kansas ratepayers fully funding the plants.

Providing equity in the system and letting others help alleviate high Kansas electric rates is an issue Evergy, the KCC and other Kansas-based SPP stakeholders can pursue. We look forward to future dialogue with Evergy and the Committee.

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The Kansas Industrial Consumers Group is a coalition of large-volume energy users in Kansas. The members collectively represent billions of dollars of investment in the State and employ thousands of Kansans. Kansans for Lower Electric Rates is an advocacy project of KIC with members of all sizes. We believe high energy costs are negatively impacting residential consumers, schools, hospitals, and large and small businesses.