

Thank you Chairman and members of the Kansas Legislation

I am supporting HB 2227 and 2228

My name is Robert Rosenberg and I am a co-director of Flint Hills Renewable Energy and Efficiency Co-Op (FHREEC), a volunteer organization dedicated to helping people install their own solar panels. We have helped install nearly 100 residential customers, mostly in the Manhattan area.

In 2020, the Kansas Legislative Coordinating Council spent \$284,000 with AECOM to provide an independent report to determine why electricity rates in Kansas are higher than the other central states. One conclusion of the AECOM report was that proper incorporation of rooftop solar with the grid, would benefit all ratepayers. I am glad to see that today, the Kansas legislators are acting on the results of AECOM report by hearing these bills which encourage rooftop solar. AECOM concluded that since rooftop solar provides valuable peak power, the utility company's infrastructure can be reduced, which will save all ratepayers money. However, it takes some proliferation of rooftop solar to make a significant difference. So, while all the components of the HB2227 and 2228 are worthwhile, raising the 1% cap of net metering is crucial for incorporating rooftop solar in the grid. It also puts Kansas in line with most of our surrounding states. There shouldn't be any opposition to these bills since rooftop solar benefits everyone.

A component of House Bill 2228 is to create a state wide policy that goes beyond Investor Owned Utilities. It is necessary to have a state wide policy which encourages rooftop solar since some smaller utility companies may focus only on the short term problems of modernizing instead of the long term benefits. The long term benefits far outweigh the short term inconveniences.

Utility companies understand the benefits of renewable energy. Wind energy is big in Kansas. Kansas has lots of sun and the utility companies plan to build solar arrays. However, distributed rooftop solar is far superior to utility scale solar. A large utility scale solar array wastes valuable Kansas land which could be used for agriculture or wildlife habitat. We should try to preserve our greatly threatened tall grass prairie ecosystem. A homeowner with a solar panel, on the other hand, is simply multi-purposing their land. Other advantages of rooftop over utility scale solar: when electricity generation is distributed around the state, an interruption of sunlight (a cloud or weather disaster) would have only a limited impact on production. It makes for a more robust grid. And, electricity is most efficiently consumed close to the point of generation. Rooftop solar cannot be beat for efficiency.

Rooftop solar is often peak power but it has shortcomings. When the sun shines on a summer afternoon, it is often hot and air conditioners are running but solar panels are generating. But solar fails us late in the day. Even though solar panels on a summer day in Kansas are often producing some electricity even as late as 5:30 in the evening (or later if the panels are facing west), we need power later. Peak demand is as late as 7:00 PM. Even that problem has been solved in other states through time-of-use pricing and programs which lower demand according to the needs of the utility company. We can solve these problems and passing HB2227 and 2228 will give us the chance to try.