



**Testimony for House Energy and Utilities**

**2/14/12**

**Proponent Testimony on HB 2663**

Chairman Holmes and Honorable Members of the Committee:

I am Zack Pistora, Legislative Director for Kansas Chapter of the Sierra Club, and I thank you for the opportunity to speak toward the favor of HB 2663, which creates the Efficiency Kansas loan program.

The Kansas Sierra Club fully encourages the state to provide low-cost financing to our homes and businesses seeking to save both energy and money. Such a state-funded energy efficiency loan program would enable hundreds or even thousands of Kansans to upgrade their buildings, reduce their monthly utility bills, and increase the value and comfort of their homes and businesses. Additionally, the program would effectively reduce the need for energy companies to make expensive expansions, such as building a new coal plant, to meet the demand for electricity. Of course, lessening the demand for fossil fuel energy lessens the associated pollution from going into our air and water, thus protecting our health, climate, and budgets from further degradation. Finally, perhaps the biggest benefit from the loan program would go to Kansas' local economies by stimulating business for those who perform energy audits, building improvements, and make energy efficiency products.

Certainly, Kansas itself could use an energy efficiency upgrade. Our state ranks 48th in energy efficiency according to the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy and is already behind about 30 other states who have a state-sponsored energy efficiency loan program.

In 2009, Kansas began a revolving loan program that secured \$32 million toward energy efficiency. This previous Efficiency Kansas program seemingly saw popular support from the general public, local businesses, and utility companies, before it was sabotaged by an administrative transfer of funds.

Kansas Sierra Club stands with Kansans everywhere in asking you to bring back state support for energy efficiency with HB 2663 and lead Kansas in a smarter direction of saving money and energy, stimulating communities and businesses, and protecting our resources and environment.

Again, thank you for allowing me to testify. I hope you will consider our concerns. At this time, I will gladly stand for any questions at the appropriate time.

Sincerely,

Zack Pistora  
KS Sierra Club  
"Be Smart, Be Green"