



Evergy companies

Written Testimony of KCP&L/Westar (Evergy)

For the House Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications Committee

Opposed to HB2273

February 21, 2019

Chairman Seiwert, Vice Chairman Schreiber, Ranking Minority Kuether and members of the Committee:

Who would have thought that in less than a decade, Kansas would be in the top three states in the country generating clean energy for its citizens. The rapid growth of wind energy in Kansas was made possible by a number of factors, not the least of which was the willingness of landowners to embrace wind energy technology and work with wind developers on welcoming clean energy into their communities.

Because of that, today, a third of the power that Westar and KCP&L provide to their customers comes from renewable sources, mostly wind. We are concerned that HB2273 would seriously inhibit the continued growth of the wind industry in Kansas.

Late last year, Evergy's regulator, the Kansas Corporation Commission, approved a new tariff that allows us to enter into agreements with our large-scale customers wishing to purchase renewable energy to further their companies' goals of going green and in many cases reduce their energy costs. In an effort to attract new businesses and provide additional renewable options for current customers, we created the "renewables direct" program as an economic development tool to attract large companies to our area. The program aims to attract business development to Kansas and Missouri by offering businesses a path toward their sustainability goals with our areas' abundant, affordable renewable energy.

(more on back)

Companies can choose the type of energy that's right for their business goals, lock in electricity prices for multiple years, and tout the fact that their workplaces and manufacturing facilities are powered by renewable energy.

In just the first few months of the offering entities the option to participate, businesses like Cox Communications, Evcon, Landoll Corp., Textron Aviation, as well as some of the state's universities and colleges (Benedictine College, Washburn University, Kansas State University and the University of Kansas) have signed up to receive power through the renewables direct program.

We urge the committee to reject HB2273 in its current form, as it appears to stifle wind development in Kansas and seeks to stop progress on projects currently underway. We believe there is a better way to ensure landowners' concerns are heard, and we commit to being a part of that dialogue. Thank you for the opportunity to provide our perspective.

Laura Maag Lutz, Manager, Government Affairs
KCP&L/Westar, 818 S. Kansas Ave., Topeka, KS 66612
785-575-8029

www.evergyinc.com

Serving approximately 1.6 million customers in Kansas and Missouri, Kansas City Power & Light Company (KCP&L), KCP&L Greater Missouri Operations Company and Westar Energy are the electric utilities of Evergy, Inc. (NYSE: EVRG). Together we generate nearly half the power we provide to homes and businesses with emission-free sources. We support our local communities where we live and work, and strive to meet the needs of customers through energy savings and innovative solutions.