



March 10, 2020

Kansas State Legislature
House Committee on Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications

Chairman Seiwert and members of the Committee,

Thank you for holding this hearing and for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Through broad-based grassroots outreach, *Americans for Prosperity (AFP)* activists engage friends and neighbors on key issues and encourage them to take an active role in building a culture of mutual benefit, where people succeed by helping one another.

I urge you to support Sub for SB 126. Americans for Prosperity has long fought to protect Americans' access to affordable, reliable energy. Currently the State of Kansas has an energy poverty problem. Households with incomes below the 50% of the poverty line spend a staggering 29% of their annual income to pay for their home energy bills. In total, the Home Energy Affordability Gap quantifies over 151,000 households experiencing high energy burdens.¹

For this reason, we believe suspending the income tax for Investor-owned utilities, a passthrough ultimately paid by customers, represents a unique opportunity to provide immediate material relief for thousands of hardworking families in the state, while this body continues to diligently address our state's high energy costs.

We believe the successful passage of this legislation is an encouraging step to address an unsustainable situation that has been going on for too long, impacting workers, business and families in the Sunflower state.

We thank you for the opportunity to testify today, and we look forward to working together to achieve lower rates that would provide relief for families and make our state a more competitive destination for entrepreneurs.

Respectfully,

Elizabeth Patton
State Director
Americans for Prosperity-Kansas

¹ Kansas: The Home Energy Affordability Gap 2016 (Second Series, Published April 2017)
http://www.homeenergyaffordabilitygap.com/03a_affordabilityData.html