



**House Committee on Financial Institutions and Rural Development  
Testimony in support of House Bill 2429  
Presented by Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs**

**Wednesday, March 3, 2021**

Mister Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber. The Kansas Chamber represents small, medium and large businesses of all industry segments across the state. The Kansas Chamber appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2429.

HB 2429 is in response to the arctic blast that consumed much of the country, resulting in a significant impact on supply and demand of energy sources. The country saw a significant spike in costs of natural gas and electricity rates and Kansas municipal utilities were adversely impacted as some purchase gas on a fluctuating rate basis.

HB 2429 would offer municipal utilities the ability to spread out the unexpected rise in rates over a 10-year period to help their customers absorb the impact of the winter storm. For our members in these impacted service territories, this would be a great help in their daily operations.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2429, and I am happy to answer any questions at the appropriate time.