



## City of Jamestown

To: House Financial Institutions and Rural Development  
From: Jessica Presler, City Clerk, City of Jamestown  
Date: March 3, 2021  
RE: Testimony in Support of City Utility Low-Interest Program

### Councilmen

Royce Bruntzel  
John F. Herbin  
Jason Martin  
Arlene Ediger  
Tom Thoman

### Mayor

Randy Smith

### Staff

Jessica Presler  
City Clerk  
Charlotte Anderson  
City Treasurer  
Jacob Thoman  
Public Works  
Superintendent  
Matt Gilbert  
Asst. Superintendent

My name is Jessica Presler and I work for the City of Jamestown in Cloud County, Kansas. We are a small town with a population of approximately 300. With the recent natural gas crisis, Jamestown has received an estimated invoice from KMEA for \$310,000, without gas transportation. Jamestown has an operating budget of \$500,000 for the year of 2021, this includes expenses related to water, sewer, trash, landfill, gas and all other funds and expenses. Jamestown has no reserve and currently has less than 1/5 of the estimated bill available. If Jamestown is forced to cover the bill in its entirety, we will have no option but to sell our pipeline and eventually become unincorporated. The Jamestown community has a range of residents from collage age to elderly, with 1/3 of the population on a fixed income. Many Jamestown residents are either elderly, disabled or at the federal poverty line. Many Jamestown residents currently receive LIEAP assistance to cover their utility bills, and will have no possible way of covering an astronomical gas bill. Jamestown and many other communities will be forced to become unincorporated, due to this crisis. The days of small town living in Kansas will be a thing of the past and many of our residents will be forced to relocate to an area that provides natural gas services. Jamestown's community has been in panic at the idea of the entire town being without natural gas, due to lack of payment. The Jamestown community has no option to pay this bill in its entirety and will be forced to shut down natural gas supply. Jamestown is pleading for someone, anyone to assist us and other small communities in this unforeseen crisis. Please take a moment to think of the children being raised in our community. The elderly that have spent most of their lives living in and loving Jamestown. The locals that are so proud of Jamestown and its history. The relocators (Me and my family) that have moved to a small town from city living to enjoy the comforts of a safe community. The travelers that visit our RV and stay for our many local celebrations. Our council and mayor that refuse to be paid so that their pay can go to community projects. Please help us and other communities like us before we are left with no other option but to leave our homes and the town we love.

Sincerely, Jessica Presler  
CITY CLERK  
JAMESTOWN, KS

300 Walnut, PO Box 274  
Jamestown, KS 66948-0274  
City Hall 785-439-6621 FAX 785-439-6617  
City Shop 785-439-6610 FAX 785-439-6710  
jamestown@nckcn.com