



kansasmunicipal**utilities**

Submitted Testimony Provided the

Senate Utilities Committee

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Senate Bill 128 - Energy Conservation Information & Education

On behalf of Kansas Municipal Utilities (KMU) and Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (KEC), I wish to express our support for Senate Bill 128, legislation to enhance the energy conservation knowledge and education of utility customers in the state. The bill would include rural electric cooperatives and municipal electric and gas utilities in a statewide effort to promote energy conservation education, an initiative both of our organizations and their members have long supported.

Over the past several years, both organizations have been involved in meetings and discussions at the Kansas Energy Council regarding methods to improve energy efficiency and conservation information that our member utility customers might receive. We have been, and continue to be, supportive of the Council's efforts in this area.

As consumer-owned utilities, the goal of our member utilities and cooperatives is to provide least cost power to customers in a safe, reliable and environmentally friendly manner. Along that line, it is in the best interest of our systems to have informed groups of customers. This legislation addresses that objective.

Representing locally-controlled municipal utilities and rural electric cooperatives, KMU and KEC appreciate the opportunity to participate in a statewide energy education initiative. We are particularly grateful that the legislation attempts to understand and recognize the jurisdictional issues and concerns of our collective memberships. For municipal utilities and cooperatives, emphasis is always focused on the local control and jurisdiction that is in place in city council chambers and cooperative board rooms in rural communities across the state.

KMU and KEC support this process and are interested in continuing to pursue options by which we might encourage our member-owners, customers and citizens to be more energy efficient and conservation-minded. We support Senate Bill 128.