

# SWKROA

SOUTHWEST KANSAS ROYALTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

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## **Testimony before the Senate Utilities Committee Senate Bill 576 March 9, 2006**

Chairman Emler and Members of the Committee:

My name is Erick Nordling, of Hugoton, Kansas. I would like to submit remarks on behalf of the members of SWKROA and on behalf of other Kansas royalty owners in support of Senate Bill 576.

Senate Bill 576 deals with access to gas gathering services and facilities. It also appears as a response to the curtailments of natural gas users who obtain natural gas from the wellhead and from natural gas gathering systems.

Kansas is blessed with many, many natural gas fields throughout the state. Access to the gas produced by these fields is vital to the residents of Kansas. Countless Kansans depend on gas acquired from gathering systems and facilities to heat their homes and keep their families warm. Furthermore, many Kansas farmers rely on gas purchased from gathering systems to fuel their irrigation operations. As such, gas accessed via gathering systems has allowed the Kansas farmer to increase productivity and allowed Kansas families to maintain warm homes.

Obviously, natural gas accessed through gathering systems is critical to the Kansas economy. Actions must be taken to ensure that as long as gas is produced in Kansas, Kansas residents and farmers will have access to that gas. Senate Bill 576 is a step in the right direction. The Bill:

- provides clarification as to what gas gathering facilities are and who can access them,
- provides clarification of the process by which complaints are to be resolved, and
- provides a means by which abandonment of service by a public utility can be protested.

To the extent that the clarifications and additional procedures provided for help ensure that Kansans will be able to continue benefitting from natural gas produced in Kansas, SWKROA and other Kansas royalty owners support Senate Bill 576.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Erick E. Nordling

Erick E. Nordling  
Executive Secretary, SWKROA