



**Date:** February 7th, 2023

**To:** House Committee on Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications  
Representative Leo Delperdang, Chair

**From:** Justin Cobb, Government Relations Manager  
The Nature Conservancy in Kansas

**RE:** Written Proponent Testimony – HB 2228

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2228. The Nature Conservancy is a nonpartisan, conservation nonprofit that has worked for over 30 years in Kansas to fulfill our mission of preserving the lands and water on which all life depends. We have permanently conserved over 150,000 acres in Kansas including five preserves that are open to the public. We are dedicated to protecting the natural heritage of the state by pursuing science-based initiatives, including the use and adoption of renewable energy.

The best conservation and environmental initiatives are those that are done voluntarily and that benefit both the user and their community. The ability for a home or business to acquire solar systems is one such initiative. Increasing the use of renewable energy supports a more sustainable economy through a lower cost of living and reduced emissions.

Solar power is a proven and reliable source for both utility and off-grid generation that is growing in popularity. As the solar industry has become more established and routine, so must the policies regulating its use, particularly those concerning net metering. Net metering is the ability for an independently owned solar system to sell excess electricity back to the utility. All parties benefit with net metering as the solar producer receives compensation for their production and the utility receives access to electricity at a cheaper rate.

Currently, the regulations for net metering vary greatly from the type of provider (utility, cooperative, municipality, etc) and location. Additionally, Kansans interested in net metering can't be sure that the regulations that exist today will be there tomorrow. HB 2228 would create uniformity and security for Kansans to be confident in pursuing net metering.

With recent studies and hearings identifying that Kansas has higher utility rates than the surrounding region, one simple solution is to relax regulations on net metering capacities to match surrounding states. HB 2228 would encourage more businesses and homeowners to net meter while still paying providers their fair share and lowering rates across the board.

We encourage the legislature to pass HB 2228 and support their constituents in providing for a more sustainable and affordable future.