



February 5, 2024

Chairman Leo Delperdang
Energy, Utilities, and Telecommunications Committee
Kansas House of Representatives
Delivered Electronically to H.Utilities@house.ks.gov

RE: HB2527

Dear Chairman and Committee Members,

I'm reaching out on behalf of the Greater Wichita Partnership to express our encouragement with the current discussions relating to HB2527. The Partnership is a regional economic development organization that works to harness opportunities and accelerate growth in jobs, talent density, and quality of place within the 10-county South Central Kansas region. Our team diligently works to bring more opportunities to our region, and it's against this backdrop we write to express support for the current discussion to maximize our region's competitiveness.

The South Central Kansas region stands at the precipice of transformational economic opportunities to grow jobs and deepen our industry assets, as evinced by our prospect pipeline of \$5.3 billion in potential capital investment. Many of these projects reflect the national trend of dramatically increased project size and scale, translating to increased and accelerated utility infrastructure needs. In our work with companies looking to move to or grow in Kansas, the availability and timeline for utility infrastructure repeatedly emerge as a dominant theme.

Therefore, we are encouraged by HB2527's focus on bringing Kansas more in line with the market dynamics of our neighboring states, particularly as it relates to investment depreciation, treatment of capital structures, and construction costs. We believe these measures will promote increased infrastructure investment and a market responsiveness that allows our state to seize upon the economic opportunities that lay before it.

We know that policy changes like these are strongest when robust conversations are had amongst all stakeholders. Thus, we are further encouraged by the dialogue underway between Evergy and stakeholders to secure equitable competitiveness for our region and state. We look forward to continuing to support these efforts as they develop.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Fluhr".

Jeff Fluhr, President
Greater Wichita Partnership