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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES & TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Proponent Testimony

SB 455 – Preserving Fossil Fuel-Fired Electric Generating Units in Kansas

Mar. 14, 2024

**Presented by:
Reagan McCloud, Manager of Government Relations
Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc.**

Chairman Delperdang, Vice Chair Turner, Ranking Member Ohaebosim, and members of the House Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Telecommunications, thank you for the opportunity to submit comments in support of SB 455. I am Reagan McCloud, Manager of Government Relations for Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (KEC), the statewide service association for 29 member, not-for-profit cooperatives providing electric service in 103 of 105 Kansas counties.

Electric cooperatives, on both the national and state level, have highlighted emerging issues concerning reliability in the recent past. From supply chain issues, to permitting restrictions, federal regulatory overreaches and beyond, grid reliability is the imminent threat facing rural electric cooperatives in Kansas.

KEC previously testified in support of the original contents of SB 456 before the Senate Committee on Utilities. While we took no position on SB 455, which now contains the contents of SB 456, we appreciate the work of the Senate committee and support the integration of the two bills.

During the Senate committee and floor debate process, several necessary clarificatory amendments were identified by both legislators and stakeholders. KEC is aware of the proposed changes, is supportive of them, and appreciates the willingness of our fellow conferees to consider our members' input in the development of the revisions. Kansas' rural electric co-ops will maintain our emphasis on the criticality of reliable power into the future and welcome the continued support of our fellow industry stakeholders as we carry our message.

Grid reliability cannot be taken for granted. It requires a diverse mix of dispatchable generation resources, robust physical and cyber security protections, and crucial and timely investments into electric infrastructure.

While renewable generation sources play an increasing role in our electric grid, baseload, always-available power remains the bedrock to grid reliability. KEC supports SB 455 as it prioritizes the value of dispatchable generation in the overall reliability of rural Kansans' power supply.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of SB 455, and I will be happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.

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