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SB 251
Testimony Opposed
Climate + Energy Project
Dorothy Barnett
Barnett@climateandenergy.org
785-424-0444

Average Price of Electricity[1] from the Energy Information Administration

Kansas Electric Utility Residential Rates February 2017
12.99 cents per kWh
highest in region (among Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, Colorado, New Mexico, Iowa, Missouri and Nebraska)

Kansas Electric Utility Commercial Rates February 2017
10.26 cents per kWh
higher than Oklahoma, Nebraska, and Missouri

Kansas Electric Utility Industrial Rates February 2017
7.17 cents per kWh
highest in region (among Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, Colorado, New Mexico, Iowa, Missouri and Nebraska)

Kansas is already at a competitive disadvantage with surrounding states because of our high electricity costs. Adding an additional fee to utility bills for residential and business customers only increases this disadvantage. Kansas does not need another self-imposed barrier to business recruitment.

This added utility fee is a disincentive for Kansans to save water, natural gas or electricity through energy efficiency or conservation measures. By reducing incentives to save water, electricity and natural gas, their use is more likely to increase. Increased customer use means that over time more generation, transmission and distribution costs will be required and passed on to customers.

In 2014, this legislature passed the Kansas Energy Efficiency Investment Act (KEEIA). The stated goal of KEEIA is to "promote the implementation of cost-effective demand side programs in Kansas. Raising utility fees at all levels, negatively impacts the legislature's intent to support and grow energy efficiency and conservation programs.

Higher utility bills disproportionally impact low income and fixed income Kansans who currently pay a greater percentage of their income for water, gas and electricity. This added utility bill fee gives consumers less control over their monthly bills.

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[1] https://www.eia.gov/electricity/monthly/epm_table_grapher.cfm?t=epmt_5_6_a