

City of



ELLINWOOD

To: House Financial Institutions and Rural Development

From: Chris Komarek, City Administrator

Date: March 3, 2021

Re: Support of House Bill 2429

The City of Ellinwood operates a Municipal Electric Utility serving 1200 accounts effecting 2100 citizens.

The impact of the "Polar Week" from February 12th to the 19th has resulted in the need for the city to be in an Emergent Status with our budget due to the financial crisis this has created to our citizens, businesses, and the daily operations of the city as well.

This event will put a huge stain on our reserves and possibly that alone will not be enough to cover our obligations. Like other cities we are still struggling with the effects of Covid-19. Like all small-town rural America, we just cannot withstand an economic event like we have just been dealt. We are a bedroom community, and a good portion of our citizens are over the age of 60, many of them on fixed incomes and or just making it with social security alone. There is no room for increased utility costs.

Being able to find low-cost temporary funding to cover these new expenses over a period of time is huge to the survival of communities across the state of Kansas. The proposed HB 2429 would be a great step in the right direction to helping our communities.

I highly request your consideration and approval of the City Utility Low-Interest program legislation.

Sincerely,

Chris Komarek, City Administrator

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