

Written Proponent Testimony



Written Testimony in support of **Senate Bill 124**
submitted to the Senate Committee on Utilities

Bonnie Lowe, President & CEO
The Chamber of Lawrence, Kansas

February 22, 2019

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of **SB 124** on behalf of the business members of The Chamber of Lawrence, Kansas. The bipartisan Kansas Energy Fairness Act will prohibit the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) from imposing demand charges that penalize residential solar users, including those who installed solar as far back as October 2015.

Demand charges diminish an otherwise cost-effective, sustainable, renewable resource to help Kansans control their energy costs. Not only are these retroactive charges unfair to those who invested in solar prior to the KCC's approval, they also hinder business growth and threaten job security. At least two Lawrence businesses with tremendous potential for growth, Good Energy Solutions and Cromwell Environmental, contributed to the nearly 1,000 public comments provided to the KCC in opposition of these demand charges. Unfortunately, we are told that residential solar orders have *dropped by 70%* over previous third and fourth quarters because of these new charges.

We understand that our utility providers need adequate revenues to support the infrastructure investments that they make. However, net-metering is capped at 1% of the utilities previous year's peak demand. At the market's current pace, more than 8,000 additional residential systems could be installed and net-metering would still be less than the 1% cap, protecting both the utility provider and non-solar consumers.

Regulatory certainty is critical in order for Kansas' solar industry and consumers to resume investing. Please support SB 124.

Contact: Hugh Carter, VP External Affairs
(785) 764-3362
hcarter@lawrencechamber.com



WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 124
Senate Committee on Utilities
February 22, 2019

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of **SB 124** on behalf of family-owned and Lawrence-based PROSOCO (www.prosoco.com) and Build SMART (www.buildsmartna.com), a sister company. Collectively, the two companies urge the Committee to support this bipartisan Kansas Energy Fairness Act.

Senate Bill 124 Overview

This bill will restrict utilities from charging solar and wind users (no matter the type of customer) additional fees for generating their own power. This legislation is unfortunately now needed because in 2018, despite nearly 1,000 public comments in opposition, the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) approved punitive fees for residential solar user customers of Westar Energy and Kansas City Power and Light.

Background

PROSOCO is a national manufacturer of products for construction, maintenance and renovation of new and existing buildings. Sister company, Build SMART, is a manufacturer of modular wall panels and foundation forms that make extremely energy-efficient construction affordable and simple. Build SMART uses PROSOCO's products and is housed in a PROSOCO building adjacent to the PROSOCO facility.

In late 2016, owners of the two companies installed on the Build SMART building's rooftop a 100-kW solar array system with over 280 panels. The decision to invest in solar energy came from a desire to cut operating expenses and to match the energy-efficient, resilient properties of our products. Also, many of PROSOCO's large, multi-national customers have aggressively established corporate carbon emission reduction commitments. Some of these customers are looking at important supply chain partners such as PROSOCO and Build SMART to do the same.

PROSOCO's roof-top solar generation system became operational in April 2017. It has been performing as expected and we anticipate a return on the investment in 6 years.

Issues

Why are both companies, PROSOCO and our sister company, Build SMART, interested in this bill? While new rates for PROSOCO, a commercial/industrial customer with solar generation, were not imposed last year, current Kansas legislation permits add-on fees to apply to any type of customer with solar or wind generation. Another troubling decision was

the fact that the KCC permitted Westar to make the residential solar user fees retroactive to customers that installed solar generation as far back as 2015. As a Westar electric utility customer with solar generation, the new fees for others clearly create regulatory uncertainty. If new fees are imposed on PROSOCO in a manner relative to residential customers, our electricity costs will sky-rocket. This also creates added uncertainty in the future for solar panels being considered for our larger PROSOCO office and manufacturing facility.

As an 80-year-old company, PROSOCO prides itself in making profitable and sustainable business decisions. It is important to improve operating efficiency year after year. Investing in an on-site, cost-effective, renewable energy system is appropriate when no added fees are imposed. This is particularly true when the Westar electricity rates appear to be rising unreasonably higher each year. Planned and actual electricity cost savings allows PROSOCO and Build SMART in part to continue business growth and employment increases at our Lawrence facilities.

Bill Support

Senate Bill 124 will help provide regulatory certainty for existing and new residential, commercial, and industrial customers that install and operate private solar electric generating systems. **PROSOCO and Build SMART urge support and passage of Senate Bill 124.**

Thank you for your consideration.

D. Kay Johnson
Sustainability and Environment Manager
PROSOCO
(785)830-7323
kay.johnson@prosoco.com

ABOUT THE COMPANIES:

PROSOCO (www.prosoco.com) is a national manufacturer of products for cleaning, protecting and maintaining concrete; making building envelopes air- and water-tight; and cleaning, protecting and restoring new and existing masonry buildings. We strive to provide innovative products and services that improve the appearance and performance of the built environment. (The PROSOCO office/manufacturing facility in Lawrence is home to approximately 80 employees. There are 22 employees outside of Lawrence – generally based outside the state of Kansas.)

Build SMART (www.buildsmartna.com) is a manufacturer of modular wall panels and foundation forms that make extremely energy-efficient construction affordable and simple. (Build SMART in Lawrence is home to approximately 12 employees.)

To: Senate Utilities Committee

2/21/2019

Re: SB124 The Energy Fairness Act

Dear Chairman Masterson and members of the committee,

I am writing in support of SB 124 "The Energy Fairness Act". All residential customers should be treated equally. I am a small business owner from Lawrence, KS, and my company, Good Energy Solutions installs residential and commercial solar systems. We have a very good working relationship with not only our customers, but with the utility companies on which we depend in order to install grid connected systems. Our business has been grown organically with a continued year over year increase in installations and local jobs created over the last decade, and with this new DG rate structure, we actually had to lay off installers in late 2018, all while the solar industry continued to grow exponentially elsewhere. Since the KCC approved the DG required, demand charges, our residential solar business in Kansas has dropped precipitously. Last year's second half Kansas residential installs decreased by 70%, and this year we have seen almost no residential Kansas installs at all. Our business story had been a story of job growth in an expanding future-technologies market, and by passing this bill, you would be making a statement that Kansas is still open for business to residential solar installers and friendly to all homeowners who want a choice in where they get their energy.

Living in the renewable energy space every day for so long, I keep my finger on the pulse of the solar market here and abroad, and it is disheartening to see most of the rest of the world embracing this technology and it's associated job creating industry, while Kansas penalizes those that make an investment in their own energy making equipment. It is almost comedic that KCPL has now put in place rates that reduce a residential solar system's value in Kansas, while they give a solar rebate across the street in Missouri. I would ask how this could be a just business practice, treating their customers so differently? We continue to travel to Missouri to do our work, and we will likely continue to grow our business there, even if Kansas regulators continue down the same path that they are on.

And most importantly to me are our extremely unhappy solar customers that installed over the last three years that are affected by the new rates. The KCC passed a rate structure for Westar residential DG customers who installed over the three years leading up to the date that the new rate class was implemented, forcing those customers to be put in the new rate class. The associated demand charges destroy much of the financial value of the solar systems that these customers spent their hard-earned money on. This ruling is also inconsistent with KCPL's new DG demand rate case. The KCC did not put the same hardship on KCPL's previous DG customers, as they did for Westar's customers.

I would emphatically implore you at a minimum, to pass this bill to protect those Kansans' solar investments in their homes over the last three years. The spirit of that KCC ruling to not protect previously installed DG customers is nothing short of mean to those forward-thinking homeowners. Westar and KCPL are now making investments in solar as a means of future energy generation, but the residential rate structure that was passed serves only the utility central power plant model and destroys the market for residential distributed generation. Those residential systems require good paying Kansas jobs to install and maintain. I ask again that you please support and pass SB 124.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin A Good, President, Good Energy Solutions, Inc.



Phone: (316) 265-8568

Email: mark@kingsolar.net

Date: 20-Feb-19

Dear senators & representatives--

Thank you for your time. I am writing you to ask for your support on HB 2190 and SB 124.

Our company, King Solar Inc., specializes in providing solar energy systems to homes and businesses throughout the state of Kansas with a large portion of our business coming from the Wichita Metro area.

When the KCC allowed Westar to create a separate rate class for residential Distributed Generators (solar customers) our company and customers were in limbo, not sure what the future would hold. This put about a 9-month halt to residential sales during the 2018 KCC rate case while we waited to see what was to come. Now that there has been a decision, we have seen our company and our customers suffer in two distinct ways:

1. Since the new rate structure is retroactive to the fall of 2015, we have customers whose previous financial investment into solar projects has been hindered, some even to the point of saving them no money at all.
2. The new rate structure has slowed our residential sales and business growth because the financial payback of a solar investment is significantly less advantageous and in some cases is not worth doing at all.
 - a. For example, I just did an estimate for a fairly efficient family. They only needed about a 3.6kw solar installation. Under the OLD rate they would have saved approximately \$583 per year. Under the new rate they will only save \$99 per year. That's an 83% loss. With this particular family I had to recommend that they DO NOT install solar.
 - b. Also, the new rate unfairly penalizes small/efficient households. This is because the new rate leans heavily on a customer's peak demand which is a fairly stable number across all residential homes. So, if you install 1 solar panel or 60 solar panels your demand rate will likely be the same meaning that someone with a small solar project is more heavily burdened by the new rate than someone with a large project.

We have seen our company grow year-over-year and have hired approximately 1 new full-time employee each year since 2016, however, I do not see that trend continuing into the future if this rate structure stays in place.

Again, I ask you to support both HB 2190 and SB 124 which will support not only our company's growth, but the economic growth of our region as a whole.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Horst".



Mark Horst
King Solar
316-265-8568

Testimony in support of SB124 and HB 2190

Members of the committee,

In summer 2015, I contacted several home solar panel companies in Kansas to find out if my home and garage were a good candidate to install solar panels. As it turned out, I had an ideal setup that would be able to produce about 85% of my home's annual power needs, vastly reducing the amount of power I'd need to draw off the grid, and reducing the load that would be put on the local power lines.

My panels were installed in May of 2016, and they've been reliable since then, helping me avoid high draws on the grid, especially in summer. My electric bills went down, but I still paid Westar what I considered a fair fee for the convenience of being grid connected, since the bill was not entirely based on usage, but included some flat fees that Westar received no matter my usage.

You can imagine my surprise when I received a letter from Westar in September of 2018 informing me that they were instituting what looked like a punitive fee structure for me, accusing me of not paying my fair share just because I used solar panels to reduce my demand on their system!

My wife and I took as many steps as we could to comply with the new rate structure, including not doing any laundry or dishes or cooking between the hours of 2:00 and 7:00, as Westar assured us in their letter that this would help us avoid their demand charges.

Despite our best efforts to comply with this new system, **we have still seen our bills come in higher than they were at this time last year**, and we're very worried that the incredibly high demand charges for summer will destroy our budget due to our need for air conditioning that simply cannot be just "shut off" for five hours in the middle of the day. We've added up the wattage of our central air and window units, and **we anticipate that just the demand charge in the summer will easily be over \$100 per month, in addition to being billed for the kilowatts used, the cost of fuel, and the flat fees we pay!**

This feels punitive, as a way of punishing those of us that were trying to reduce our energy usage by installing solar panels. There is no way I would recommend anyone else in Kansas even think about solar panels if they're going to face these kinds of fees – **fees that feel more like fines.**

At this point, I cannot afford to keep my solar panels, but I cannot afford to have them removed, either. I feel like Westar and the KCC have sentenced me to an endless terms of punitive fees, without recourse. This is especially onerous, as there my panels were not grandfathered into the new rate structure, despite them being installed for 2 ½ years prior to the new rate being unilaterally put upon me!

I'm simply asking to be treated fairly, a request that has fallen on deaf ears with Westar and the KCC. This is why I urge support for the Kansas Energy Fairness Act.

Thank you,



Ryan Armbrust
910 Park St, Alta Vista, KS 66834

(402) 490-3741

Richard J. Bowman

14801 Timberlake Road
Wichita, Kansas 67230
rb@richardbowman.us
316-655-8938

February 21, 2019

To whom it may concern:

Gentleman,

I am a home owner in Wichita Kansas. I looked into putting solar voltaic panels on the roof of my home. Based on the cost and the anticipated cost savings it appeared that they would have an eight year payback which sounded attractive to me. The reason I did not put the panels up is that Westar my utility provider each year tries to change the rules on how the cost savings would be calculated. If I could be assured that the rules would remain the same for at least ten years I might look at the project again. However with the uncertainty of the legislation of whether they are for or against clean energy I will not be installing the panels until this uncertainty is resolved.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Bowman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and "B".

Richard Bowman

To: Senate Utilities Committee
Re: SB-124 / HB-2190

I am writing in support of Senate Bill No. 124, which seeks to equalize treatment of electric customers who harness the power of our State's wind or sun to generate electricity. This Bill would help reverse the damage done by Kansas utilities, with the approval of the Kansas Corporation Commission.

As correctly pointed out by the Wichita Eagle Editorial Board (7/13/18)(emph. added):

The logic behind Westar Energy's request to single out its most conscientious customers and raise their utility rates is *faulty* to the point of being embarrassing. . . . The KCC, which acts on Kansans' behalf in regulating electric utilities, should tell Westar not to *penalize* solar users.

The utilities' logic was "faulty" because they charged solar customers a higher "Basic Service Fee" simply because those solar customers buy less energy - thus "penalizing" those customers for consuming less. But conserving energy should be rewarded, not punished. Worse, the utilities sought to punish customers based on the reason that they consume less - i.e., because they use the sun to generate electricity. Senate Bill No. 124 would rectify that problem by preventing utilities from using their customers' solar generation as a basis for establishing higher rates or charges.

The KCC also allowed utilities to impose a new "Demand Charge" on customers who use solar to produce electricity, even though solar production helps alleviate the very demand peaks that the Demand Charge is supposed to address. But there is no evidence that the "peaks" of solar customers are higher than the "peaks" of customers who do not generate solar. Instead, the Demand Charge will punish solar customers simply because they generate electricity - and not because they consume more during "peaks" than other customers.

Demand Charges on any residential customers have been rejected in other states because those charges create uncertainty - as stated by the Arizona AARP:

[D]emand charges would be difficult for most consumers to understand. Consumers often don't know when their household is experiencing its maximum electricity usage. This makes it nearly impossible for ratepayers to keep their electric bill as low as possible.

Demand Charges also cause hardship - as stated by the Illinois AARP:

Under this [Demand Charge] proposal, individual customers should experience drastic increases in their bills simply as a result of when they chose to use an appliance. If this customer is low income, one expensive and unexpected utility bill can quickly turn into a financial crisis.

Senate Bill No. 124 would bring Kansas in line with other states and prevent Demand Charges that apply only to solar generation customers.

Senate Bill No. 124 would also help achieve the longstanding goal of KSA 66-1256:

The legislature declares that it is in the public interest to promote renewable energy development in order to best utilize the abundant natural resources found in this state.

Westar's website demonstrates that solar should be a part of Kansas' energy future:

- "Our planet and our lives revolve around the sun. The next generation of renewable energy in Kansas can too."
- "We all need energy to power our lives, and generating that energy in a clean, sustainable and reliable manner that protects our state for generations to come will take more than just one energy source. It will require multiple clean energy sources working together to create the electricity we need, while maximizing the benefit to the environment."
- "Generating more clean energy for Kansas also generates jobs and opportunities for Kansans."
- "We don't know for sure what part solar will play. But we do know that it will be an important part in our renewable mix in the future."

Westar itself recognizes the tremendous advantages of solar, but doesn't want anyone else to produce it - Westar wants to make and control all that power themselves. Senate Bill No. 124 would help tell Westar that they need to start working with, not against, solar producers in Kansas.

Dean Kuckelman

Dean Kuckelman

7735 Oak Tree Lane

Kechi, Kansas 67067

TO: Members of the Senate Committee on Utilities
FROM: Burke W. Griggs
RE: SB 124
DATE: February 21, 2019

Dear Members of the Committee:

The purpose of this written testimony is to support the passage of SB 124.

In 2016, my family invested over \$50,000.00 in solar panels to produce electricity for our home in Kansas, including an energy monitoring system. This decision was based upon a calculation of how much money we would save on our electricity bills over a six- to eight-year period. In 2018, the Kansas Corporation Commission approved a rate change proposal by Westar Energy and others that imposed a demand charge for residential solar owners, punishing them without regard to the energy they contributed to the grid. This committee and the Legislature can remedy the numerous legal and policy flaws in the residential solar demand-charge policy by legislating it out of existence—by enacting this bill. For the following reasons, that is the right thing to do.

First, while residential solar customers may, in total, impose a slight burden upon the electrical grid, the demand charge imposed upon those customers is out of all proportion to that burden.

Why is Westar imposing a disproportionate tax upon those who develop their own property and property rights—and at their own expense? Residential landowners in the Hugoton natural gas field in southwestern Kansas do not pay a penalty to electric utilities for the electricity generated by the combustion of natural gas produced from their property. Why should solar energy property rights be treated differently?

Second, the demand charges impose an unreasonable burden upon our family, forcing us to minimize our electricity usage between 2-7pm every day in the summer, *even when we generate more electricity than we consume*, which is typical given the size of our solar array. This is simply irrational. Any argument that increased solar generation, on its own, imposes public infrastructural costs ignores physics. Electricity generated on our property flows first to our home, because our home is closer than the grid. **Why is the rate structure blind to the physical laws about electricity and net metering?** If we generate 10 units of electricity and consume 12, those 10 units flow to the house, and then we draw the remaining 2 units from the grid. Doesn't that use 1/6th of the grid than we would otherwise use?

Third, the demand charge structure ignores the very externalities that utility regulation claims to consider. Electricity generated from my solar panels reduces demand at peak times. It lowers the strain on the grid due to a lesser brownout risk. It reduces the carbon footprint, reducing global climate change, and thus reducing the need for even more air conditioning. It also reduces pollutant emissions from coal-fired power plants, enhancing Kansas's ability to comply with the provisions of the Clean Air Act. Given Westar's operation of two antiquated, coal-fired power plants near our home, this should mean something.

Fourth, the KCC decision to impose demand charges upon residential solar is of questionable legality and has invited litigation. Because the KCC decision was based upon a selective reading

of the administrative record, is arbitrary and capricious, driven by animus, and the product of “sue and settle” tactics, the State of Kansas and other parties (including Westar) will likely incur more legal costs to defend the rate structure than whatever income the rate structure generates—regardless of the ultimate result of the case. Enacting SB 124 moots the dispute, ending costly litigation.

Finally, Westar cannot account for its own net metering. While my monitoring provides a daily accounting of the energy my solar array has produced, Westar’s billing methods fail to provide solar generation and net consumption data. **That incapacity raises serious questions about the bases for the demand charges in the first place.** Westar has dedicated one person—one person, statewide—to deal with all billing questions for residential solar generation. You are welcome to call her. Her name is Tammy Ray; she is courteous, and she is overwhelmed. (316) 299-7426.

In conclusion, the demand charge imposed upon residential solar generators is arbitrary and capricious; it imposes unreasonable burdens upon solar generators during the very times they contribute significantly to the grid; it ignores externalities that utility law is supposed to capture; and it is exploited by an electrical utility that is obviously—and irrationally—hostile to distributed solar generation. Instead of arguing over these flaws, the legislature can make them irrelevant by enacting SB 124. This is not a hard call.

Thank you for reviewing this testimony.

February 14, 2019

Senator Ty Masterson

Chairperson Senate Committee on Utilities Statehouse

Topeka, Kansas 66612

SUBJECT: SB 124 by Senate Committee on Utilities

Dear Senator Masterson:

We write because we are frustrated and disappointed by the recent modification to the electricity rate structure sponsored by Westar and approved by the KCC that imposes a punitive rate change in the form of a demand charge to Distributed Generation (DG) customers.

Ironically, we regularly receive mailings describing how environmentally friendly Westar is and how it supports renewable and alternative energy sources. The following are pulled directly from recent Westar mailings:

“...We are embracing alternative energy sources to generate more power with less impact to our environment. Nearly half of the power we provide to homes and businesses will now be emissions-free!”

“We are committed to providing our customers with energy solutions that meet their needs. Whether it’s new ways to connect with you, our electric vehicle charging station network, or the next innovation around the corner, we are a forward-thinking, innovative energy company dedicated to serving you.”

Westar would have one believe they promote energy conservation, as well as renewable and sustainable energy sources. The truth is, through policy and rate structure, they have disincentivized all three by modifying the rates for distributed generators. Westar’s current DG rate structure is punitive to those who have invested in DG systems after November 2015. Implementation of this rate structure penalizes customers who made significant personal investments in energy conservation. This policy seems in direct contrast with the “forward-thinking, innovative energy company” Westar claims to be. We have been personally damaged by the DG rate structure in the form of monthly demand charges on our energy bill causing our per kWh charge to be higher than it would have been prior to the rate change and higher than those of our neighbors.

We made a significant capital investment installing a 10.93 kW solar array on our house at a cost of over \$23,000, after federal tax credits. We made this decision based on a set of facts including the federal tax incentive and the existing rate structure that would lead one to conclude the system would pay for itself in approximately 10 years. We knew there was no guarantee that the rates would not change, but we never would have guessed that a rate structure would be adopted that would punish customers for

Please add my name to the list of Kansas Westar customers (and voters) who oppose electrical utilities from basing rate structures on their clients generation of their own power.

I don't currently have solar panels or other distributed generation at my own house but expect to soon. Westar's service in operating the electrical grid and providing power is extremely important, but I think their current business model of being a sole-source electrical power monopoly is outdated and is standing in the way of progress toward a more reliable and sustainable power grid.

I believe that electrical utilities like Westar need to move to a more modern business model in which they principally operate and maintain the grid, arbitrate energy production and consumption, and provide additional generation as needed. They should adopt a non-partisan rate structure based on the costs of providing those services, and I believe the proposed legislation encourages them to do that.

Thanks...

John Flavin
Manhattan, KS

doing exactly what Westar promotes like “embracing alternative energy sources to generate more power with less impact to our environment. “

The graphics below are representative our system’s energy generation this past summer. The system on our home adequately covers a large part of the Westar peak period both daily and seasonally. Through most of the peak we are using less energy than we are generating. When we are using energy from the grid near the end of the Westar peak period, we are contributing far less to the Westar peak load demand than we would as traditional energy-sourced consumers.

In conclusion, we recognize that the energy industry is changing with the advancement and implementation of developing energy sources. It is also apparent that the current Westar rate structure does not accurately reflect the cost of delivering power to users. If Westar needs to modify its rate or service charges to more accurately reflect the cost of operating the utility in this changing industry, then an independent study should be commissioned to determine the most equitable way to distribute the cost of delivering power across all commercial, industrial and residential customers. Targeting small consumer bases, like DG customers, raises questions concerning Westar’s motivation in the recent modification to the electricity rate structure.

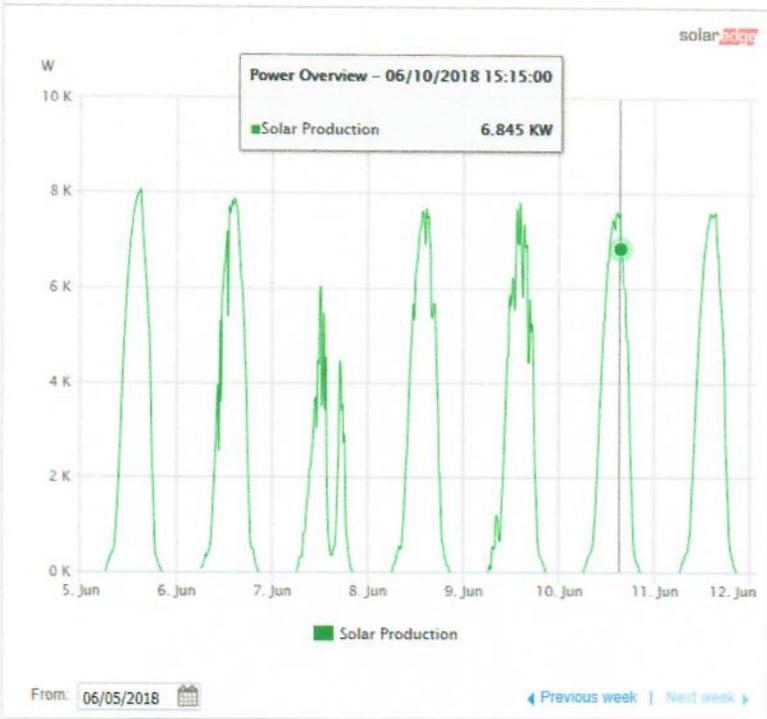
We strongly support the passage of SB124 that will eliminate the punitive DG rate structure.

Respectfully submitted,

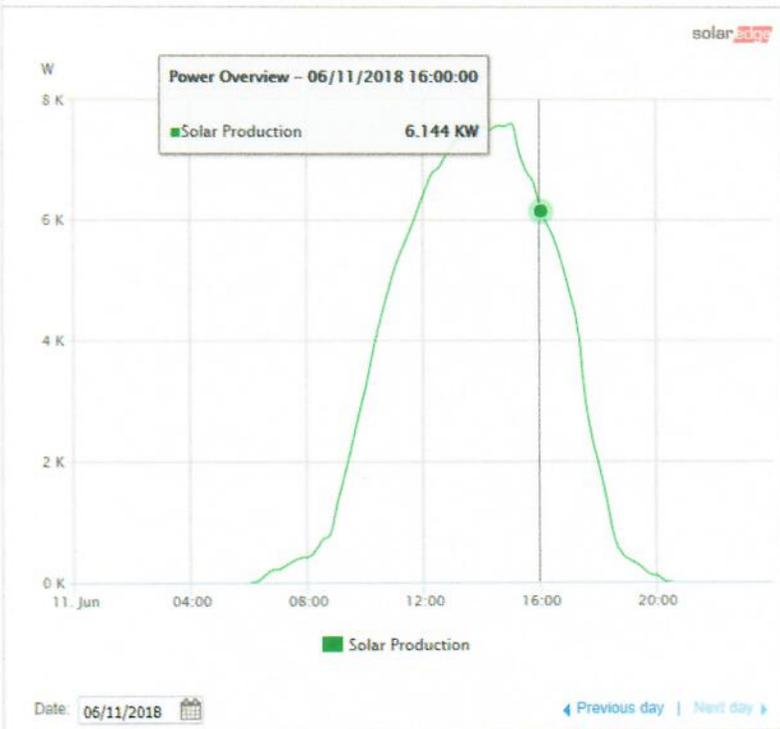
Handwritten signatures of Monte and Molly Soukup. The signature on the left is 'Monte' and the signature on the right is 'Molly Soukup'.

Monte and Molly Soukup

System Production: **349.74 kWh**



System Production: **53.83 kWh**



Comparative Energy

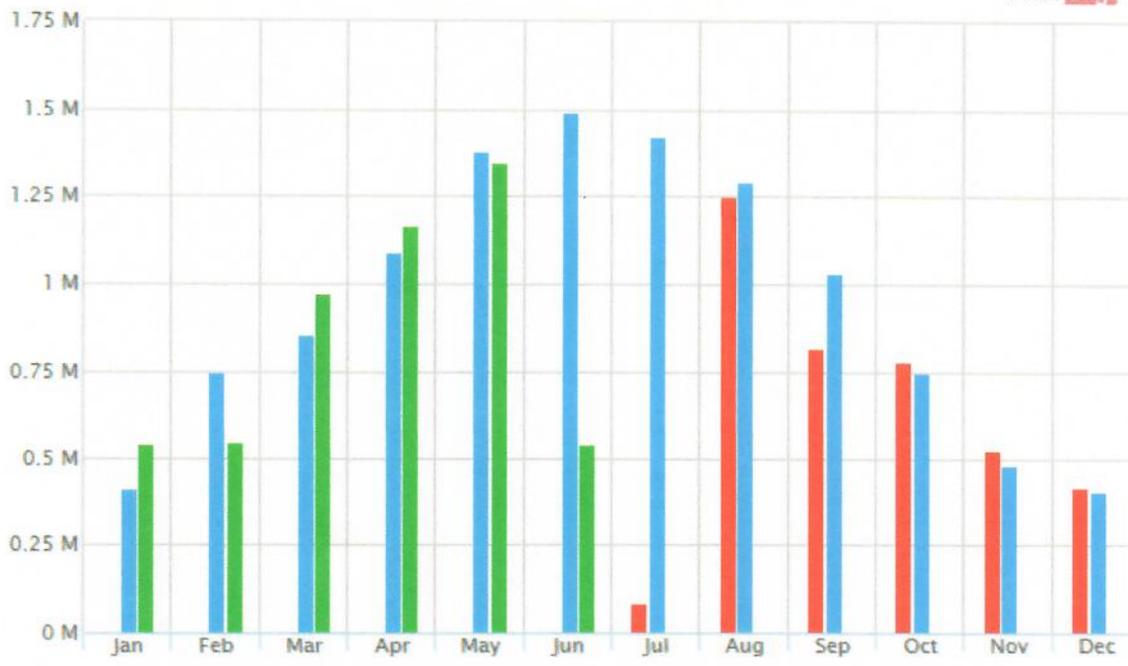


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solar_{edge}



February 20, 2019
RE: SB-124, HB-2190

Senate Utilities Committee Members,

During this 2019 legislative session, you have the opportunity to demonstrate to the rest of the country that Kansas intends to be a leader in efforts to improve the State's position in the rooftop solar industry. You can signal to citizens and businesses that the State values residential consumers' investments in alternative energy options and incentivizes the installation of rooftop solar panels that capture the sun's energy, thereby reducing reliance on fossil fuels.

When we built our new home a few years ago, we invested a substantial amount to install solar panels on the roof. We wanted to demonstrate our support for renewable energy sources; to do our (small) part to mitigate climate change; and to reduce future utility bills as we move into our retirement years.

We urge you to support The Energy Fairness Act (SB-124, HB-2190) that will repeal the excessive charges Westar Energy has added to residential customer bills where rooftop solar panels have been installed. These additional charges penalize customers who are utilizing green energy and producing energy for other Westar customers. These additional fees are punitive and destroy the incentive for more homeowners to install solar panels in this State.

The demand fees have increased our personal bills and impacted our lifestyle. We are forced to curtail energy consumption at the very time when our panels would be most effective at offsetting that use! Please consider the current and long-term effects of the demand fees now in place and the remedies offered in The Energy Fairness Act currently in committee. We urge you to make the best decision for all Kansans and vote to approve SB-124/HB-2190. Thank you for your service.

Regards,



Mark L. Stogsdill and Sheila M. Stogsdill
424 Louisiana Street
Lawrence, KS 66044
785-331-7077
smstogs@sunflower.com

cc: Sen. Marci Francisco - Marci.Francisco@senate.ks.gov;
jessica@j-sq.com; barnett@climateandenergy.org

February 19, 2019

To: Senate Utilities Committee

From: Carina Smith

Re: SB-124, HB-2190

This note is in support of The Energy Fairness Act (SB-124, HB-2190) which will revoke the punitive changes that were added to my Westar bill due to my solar installation after October 2015. These charges penalize customers who are utilizing the green energy of solar and significantly impact the value of my investment of over \$50,000 in solar energy.

We wanted to reduce our carbon footprint and utilize more green energy, so we spent several years researching and saving up money so that we would be able to purchase our solar panels, only to find out that Westar would penalize us for using them. We decided to go ahead with the install because it is what is best for our planet and our family. We had our panels installed in November of 2018. However, now we have to make sure that we don't run any large appliances during the peak weekday hours of 2pm-7pm or we will incur more charges.

Westar has a monopoly on our electricity as they are our only choice. So when we decide to use a different source, they penalize us. Isn't that illegal in the United States? Shouldn't I be able to decide to use a different company without fear of being penalized? "Monopolies are illegal if they are established or maintained through improper conduct, such as exclusionary or predatory acts. This is known as anticompetitive monopolization. Example: **Price Discrimination**: selling similar goods to buyers at different prices."(1) People who choose to utilize green energy are now being discriminated against by paying higher prices. Doesn't this violate the federal anti-trust laws? Such as the Sherman Antitrust Act, The Clayton Antitrust Act, The Robinson-Patman Act, or the Federal Trade Commission Act.

How is it fair that KCPL/Energy solar customers on the Missouri side are getting rebates while customers on the KS side are getting additional punitive charges? Not only are these charges hurting solar customers, they are also dissuading people from getting solar panels which in turn hurts our planet and hurts solar companies who are losing business because of it. When Kansas Businesses are not making money, they are paying less in taxes and in turn, hurting the State.

I ask you to make the right and fair decision in this regard.

Sincerely,

Carina Smith

Hoyt, KS

1. (<https://www.classlawgroup.com/antitrust/unlawful-practices/monopoly/>)

There are several federal antitrust laws that ensure fair play and competition in the marketplace. Violations of federal [antitrust laws](#) are generally prosecuted by the [U.S. Department of Justice Antitrust Division](#).

- **Sherman Antitrust Act**
The Sherman Act, enacted in 1890, is the main federal antitrust law. The Sherman Act outlaws all contracts, combinations, and conspiracies that unreasonably restrain trade, including [monopolization](#) of any market.
- **Clayton Antitrust Act**
The Clayton Act addresses specific practices not clearly prohibited by the Sherman Act. The Clayton Act authorizes private parties to sue for triple damages when they are harmed by violations of the Sherman or Clayton Act.
- **Federal Trade Commission Act**
The Federal Trade Commission Act prohibits unfair methods of competition in interstate commerce. The Supreme Court has said that all violations of the Sherman Act also violate the Federal Trade Commission Act. The Act also created the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), one of the primary government enforcement bodies of federal antitrust law violations.
- **Robinson-Patman Act**
The Robinson-Patman Act prohibits unlawful price discrimination in interstate commerce.

2-11-2019

Senate Utilities Committee

Sen. Robert Olson

Sen. Mike Petersen

Sen. Tom Hawk, Sen. Elaine Bowers. Sen. Marci Francisco, Sen. Randall Hardy, Sen. Julia Lynn,

Sen. Ty Masterson, Sen. John Skubal, Sen. Gene Suellentrop

I am writing to show my support for the Kansas Energy Fairness Act. I am very concerned for sustainability and clean energy. Kansas is in a great position to benefit from solar and wind energy. Kansas should be encouraging residents to invest in renewable energy instead of penalizing them. I have looked at solar panels for my home in Overland Park, Kansas. Now with the ruling from the KCC, the rules and fees are a deterrent. It is completely unfathomable that the KCC can make fees retroactive. I have never conducted business where such a charge is practiced.

The KCC needs to be elected so they can be held accountable to the residents of Kansas.

KCPL and Westar need to adapt and use new technology to stay viable and competitive in the future. Businesses that don't diversify do not succeed.

Again, I want to repeat that Kansas should be a leader in renewable energy. We used to brag about American ingenuity, now we prop up aging infrastructure with punitive fees on the consumer.

Thank you

Cindy Forsberg

Overland Park, Ks 66212

YES- KANSAS ENERGY FAIRNESS ACT!

All around the world there are nations, companies, politicians, individuals and utilities who understand climate science and take it seriously. They are investing in renewable energy such as solar and wind power. The benefits are significant in terms of physical health and economic health for our world. CLEAN, AFFORDABLE, STABLE, RENEWABLE.

Pew Research Center study discovered that 89% of American favor more solar power. That is the direction the world is going because it makes sense.

There are states that set goals to increase renewable energy. They not only encourage renewable energy they mandate those goals. They educate, give tax credits, remove excessive red tape for buyers and installers, regulate utility rates, offer financing options, set attractive policies on net metering for customers who produce excess power for the grid. More and more states are trying to make it easier and more attractive to move toward CLEAN, AFFORDABLE, STABLE AND RENEWABLE energy.

There are states, like Kansas, that get bad grades for **slowing** the growth of solar energy. No rebates or tax credits, no mandatory goals and allow monopoly utility companies to punish solar customers with **demand charges** (fee for producing electricity) and cutting the rates of payback for producing electricity and even stopping net metering.

Solar customers put up big investments in solar power because it is CLEAN, AFFORDABLE, STABLE, RENEWABLE AND IT BENEFITS OUR PHYSICAL AND ECONOMIC HEALTH. They want to improve the environment and strengthen their own economic wellbeing by saving money and increasing their value of their properties. Why barriers and penalties that undermine solar power?

When our legislatures and commissions make solar power a priority and accessible, there will not be the increasing need for utility monopolies to spend **100s of millions of dollars** on new power plants, grid infrastructure, pipelines and high-powered transmission lines.

Fossils fuels, coal and natural gas, are dirty and expensive. Solar and wind power continues to be less expensive and more efficient. There are politicians, regulators and even Utilities that understand that renewable energy is the way the world needs to go and the way the world is going. They embrace the goals to reduce carbon emissions and give credits to solar power customers.

Renewable energy is a wise business decision and a wise environmental decision for our state. Let's not be a state that is stuck in the past with dirty, expensive antiquated energy. Rather let's be a state that takes advantage of its sun and wind energy sources, creating a clean, healthy, affordable and attractive place to live.

Revoke the charges that punish solar customers and solar businesses. Is the state of Kansas going to be seen by the rest of the country and world as a place where people are ignorant, irresponsible and in denial with their heads in the sand? Advance Solar Energy!

Let's be responsible. Let's be leaders. Let's make our children and grandchildren safe, healthy and proud. Let's do everything we can for solar power; decrease the red tape, educate, encourage, incentivize and offer credits to solar manufacturers, sales companies and installers. Reward solar customers!

Rick and Gay Clock – Baldwin City, Kansas

To Kansas Legislators:

I write in support of the Energy Fairness Act. Without passage of the Act, Westar and KCPL ("the companies") will be allowed to disproportionately charge a subset of customers – those who reduce their electricity consumption through the use of solar panels – for their infrastructure costs, rather than applying the fixed costs for infrastructure across all customers who benefit from the infrastructure.

1) Infrastructure costs are not incurred based on swings in daily energy consumption; they are based on **potential peak consumption**. They consider how much the customer **could** need, how big is the customer's system when maxed out. They are fixed costs that would be more appropriately allocated to all of the customers benefiting from the infrastructure. This allocation should be based on the **capacity** of each user's system.

Solar-generating customers must still have a sufficiently sized system capacity, in order to get their electricity on days when they aren't getting any power from their solar panels. So prorating the cost of infrastructure across all customers based on the capacity of their system would not disproportionately benefit or penalize any customer; rather, it would appropriately charge the customer according to their potential energy needs. Solar customers would still pay their fair share for their respective portion of the companies' infrastructure. The owner of a larger building that requires more potential power should be charged more for infrastructure because the companies must be able to deliver more power - **regardless of whether solar power is involved** - than to a smaller building that requires less potential power. Energy consumption and infrastructure are two totally different expenses for the companies, and recovering a fixed cost like infrastructure shouldn't be based on variable usage demand.

2) Solar-generating customers are in essence the same as other energy-conscious customers who purchase high-efficiency appliances or reduce their energy consumption through other means. The companies claim to encourage energy efficiency. However, targeting solar customers to bear more than their share of the cost as compared to other energy saving customers is not consistent with that claim.

3) Most people agree that utilizing renewable energy sources in general should be encouraged. Federal tax law is an example of this encouragement. But allowing the companies to pick on the solar customer will chill future development of this clean renewable energy in Kansas, and shouldn't be tolerated.

4) Selectively charging the solar customers is simply an easy way for the companies to avoid the larger negative publicity that would result from requesting a general rate increase across their entire customer base - but that is exactly what should be done. The companies would rather make the smaller population of solar customers mad at them than angering their entire customer base by correctly allocating the costs to them. Please make them change their billing procedures to do the right thing, as unpopular as that may be for the company.

Please vote in favor of the Energy Fairness Act.

– Clark and Linda Cropp
2413 Oxford Rd
Lawrence, KS 66049
and
588 E 1600 Rd
Baldwin City, KS 66006

I am a Westar customer who has rooftop solar with net metering. Since September 2018, my bills have included a peak demand charge--something only imposed on solar customers. Despite efforts to limit electric usage during the peak hour of 2 to 7 PM on weekdays, on the latest bill, my demand charge represented one-third of my total bill and was nearly triple the cost of total peak usage for the entire month. During the months of April through September, Westar plans to implement a "summer demand charge," which is \$9 per kwh for the highest hour of usage during the peak time. This could cost me an extra \$60 to \$90 a month, based on prior years' energy consumption. This would effectively erase any cost savings from using solar.

Besides the added cost, this demand charge has caused and will cause a great deal of inconvenience. We need to do cooking and laundry outside of the peak times. If we are not home during the non-peak times, we are frequently rushed to get cooking and laundry done. In the summer, we will need to run the air conditioner during the peak times because of the health concerns of family members. We can't just shift cooling the house to non-peak times. We bought an electric lawn mower, but we don't want to use it (or any other appliances) when the air conditioner is running.

Eric Trump
2927 29th Ter
Emporia, KS 66801

February 8, 2019

To: Senate Utilities Committee
From: William D. Hammers
Re: SB-124, HB-2190

This note is in support of The Energy Fairness Act (SB-124, HB-2190) which will revoke the punitive charges that were added to my Westar bill due to my solar installation after October of 2015. These charges penalize customers who are utilizing the green energy of solar and significantly impacts the value of my investment of over \$50,000 in solar energy. Climate change is real and a major cause is the burning fossil fuels to generate electrical power.

I purchased and installed my solar panels in December of 2016 in an effort to do my part to address this grave issue by giving Westar access to more green energy to sell to other customers. Instead I find that Westar has penalized me for my investment and impacted my lifestyle by forcing me to curtail energy consumption between the hours of 2:00 PM – 7:00 PM on weekdays when their penalty is set. Their actions are not the way forward in addressing climate change because they destroy incentive to “do the right thing” as citizens of this earth that we all share.

Without your action to curtail this injustice, I will continue my investigation of installing batteries to store power over night and pull the plug on Westar energy. This action will negate my effort to provide green energy to other Westar customers via excess power that I produce during the daylight hours. Instead, Westar Energy will have to burn more fuel with the associated pollutants to make up the lack of power that I am providing to them. This is a lose-lose scenario that you can correct by approving The Energy Fairness Act in your committee. I ask you to make the right decision in this regard.

Best regards,



William D. Hammers
14111 West 95th Street
Clearwater, KS 67026
620-584-6977

Dear Legislators,

I retired in 2014 after 40 years of teaching to fixed income and by fixed I do mean fixed with KPERS that doesn't even give cost-of-living adjustments; my retirement amount in 2014 is the same in 2019, and I anticipate it being the same amount in 2030.

My husband and I decided to take money from being paid for our unused sick days. I was only paid at a rate of \$25 per day (before taxes) for sick days I did not use over 40 years of teaching. My husband's rate from his district had been higher using his daily rate of pay as the basis.

We are planners. When we built our house in 1996, we had two young children. However, we built our house to be open (wide doors for walkers, wheel chairs) with our bedroom and laundry on the main level. We would not have to go upstairs or downstairs for daily living. We even zoned the upstairs with separate furnace and AC. I drive a Prius to save on gasoline; we replaced all our "most used" light bulbs with LEDs. We replaced a shake roof with a composition roof to save on insurance costs and make the house easier to sell.

Knowing that we would get no cost-of-living adjustment with KPERS, we wanted to reduce costs where we could — eliminating and/or decreasing on-going charges. With solar or geothermal, electric was one of the costs we could decrease long-term — especially when considering rate increases. For various reasons, geothermal was too expensive as an add-on to our existing home. Consequently, we began exploring bids from solar companies to help protect ourselves from spiraling energy costs on our fixed income. We decided to add solar to our home as we plan/hope to live here 15 or more years. In addition after checking with real estate agents, we learned that having solar would also generally make our house more attractive to future buyers — especially should something unexpected happen and we needed to downsize sooner than anticipated.

We received a federal tax credit but not a state credit like many other states had made available to their citizens. At the time we were exploring solar, relatives in Texas and friends in California could almost add solar for free due to state tax credits — Kansas did not offer such credits. Finally, we played by the rules of the game that had been established at that time. We did not anticipate that "powers that be" would want to change the rules. Can't change the rules in the middle of a game of Monopoly to benefit one side over another! We installed solar in 2015 because it was the right thing to do for the environment and our long-term cost of living! Kansas should encourage such installation by homeowners and businesses!

When I saw that Weststar wanted to retroactively charge/punish folks for putting on solar, I was livid — posting to social media, writing letters etc. This would be like McDonalds trying to collect more for food they had sold years earlier. Really! And why after October 2015? Why not December 2012 or January 2014? How was that random date selected? By what right, can you retroactively make a change like this? Isn't this like passing an *ex post facto* law that makes an act a crime after the act has been committed and forbidden in the U.S. Constitution? Yet, people who added solar committed no crime. Fairness simply says that you can't change the rules once the game has started.

Here is a quick overview of our electric bills before and after solar and with rate increases.

Before Solar – years 2012 until solar was on line, we were on level pay.

6/6/12	Westar Electric	\$254.00
6/7/13	Westar Electric	\$311.00
6/9/14	Westar Electric	\$290.00
6/9/15	Utilities: Westar Electric	\$211.00

12/10/15	Utilities: Westar Electric • Installed LED lights on 5/30 ish • Last bill before solar was activated on about 11/5/15	\$162.00
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After Solar – our bills dropped to under \$100 for about a year and a half — 2015 - 2017

6/7/16	Utilities: Westar Electric • Installed LED lights on 5/30/2015 ish • Solar online 11/5/2015	\$43.88
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12/8/16	Utilities: Westar Electric • Installed LED lights on 5/30/2015 ish • Solar online 11/5/2015	\$47.74
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6/14/17	Utilities: Westar Electric • Installed LED lights on 5/30/2015 ish • Solar online 11/5/2015	\$52.52
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Since August of 2017, we have not had an electric bill under \$100. Yes, we were hurt by the punitive charges that “changed the game”

6/8/18	Utilities: Westar Electric • Installed LED lights on 5/30/2015 ish • Solar online 11/5/2015	\$113.00
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2/7/19	Utilities: Westar Electric • Installed LED lights on 5/30/2015 ish • Solar online 11/5/2015	\$142.00
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My husband and I support The Energy Fairness Act (SB-124, HB-2190 because it.....

1. Revokes the punitive charges that were added to solar customers who installed a solar energy system after **October of 2015 (Westar territory)** and after December 20, 2018 (KCP&L territory). [Ours was installed, but Westar did not get it activated until 11/5/2015.]
2. **Protects solar** customers from being singled out again in the future.

Do the right thing for the citizens of Kansas and our environment and vote to support this bill.

Respectfully,

Drs. Linda and Eric Hyler

Ismael Arvizu, Jr.
2531 2nd Avenue
Leavenworth, KS, 66048
02/20/2019

Kansas State Senate Utilities Committee

RE: The Energy Fairness Act

Dear Kansas State Senate Utilities Committee Members:

“No good deed goes unpunished.” That is how my wife and I see things since Westar has enacted the punitive rate increases for those homeowners who have installed solar energy systems in their homes. We are retired, and we installed solar because we wanted to responsibly mitigate the future energy costs of running the dehumidifiers and air filter cleaners my wife continuously needed to control her severe asthma. Since the rate changes, because of the exorbitant charges levied from the hours of 2:00pm -7:00pm (Demand Charge times), we turn off all but one of the air cleaning machines. We attribute her current severe asthma flareup to this change. The attached Westar Energy letter describes the “Demand Time Charge” rates for electricity usage exceeding 900kWh.

Last month, because of her severe asthma exacerbation, we had to wash and dry all our pillows and bedding in one day. Subsequently, we received a Westar Energy **first-time** alert notifying us that we had exceeded our average energy consumption by 90% and that our statement would reflect this. Indeed, our bill went from \$94.49 to \$155.70 in one month, simply because of this wash day. In order to get reasonable bills, we try to not bake nor use the washer, dryer, or dishwasher during these high rate times. Additionally, we have set our heating-cooling system thermostat at 64 degrees in the winter and 78 degrees in the summer. Otherwise, our bill will reflect these increased discriminatory “Demand Time Charges”.

We believe that Westar Energy is slowly killing the Kansas solar industry because those of us that have solar systems in place are charged higher Demand Time rates, which require dramatic changes in electricity usage, and no longer benefit us by generating energy to help Westar Energy, the environment, and ourselves.

Please consider this testimony as you discuss the impact of these rate changes.

Respectfully yours,

Ismael Arvizu, Jr.

Attachments: 2



Dear Customer:

As a customer with self-generation capabilities, you'll notice a few changes related to your charges and rate structure in future bills. We wanted to provide you with context around those changes to help you understand why they were made and how they'll impact you.

In 2015, The Kansas Corporation Commission, which regulates our rates and services, recognized the need for a private generation customer rate. In a recent order for our rate review (filed earlier this year), a change was made to the Distributed Generation rate assigned to you. With this new rate, prices for residential Distributed Generation customers better match the way distributed generation customers use our service.

This won't change what we pay you for excess energy you provide back to the grid as a net metering customer. We're only changing the rates you're charged for energy you use.

HOW THE NEW RATE WORKS

A demand component is being added to your bills, as established by the commission, to better align charges with our cost to serve you. However, *you're paying less for your actual energy consumption* (per kWh) than you were previously. That means *you can still receive notable energy savings*.

The new Demand Charge not only helps reflect cost to serve you, but it also **rewards you for shifting energy usage outside of 2 - 7 p.m. weekdays** (excluding holidays): The less energy you use in that window, the less your Demand Charge will be.

That's because these "peak hours" are when we generate the most electricity to meet customer needs, and energy is more expensive to produce. When you shift energy usage away from peak hours, that uses the power grid more efficiently, which benefits everyone.

Demand is based on kilowatts (kW) of electricity used at any given time. Each month, we calculate your Demand Charge based on your maximum average electric need in a 60-minute window during peak hours.

Here's a breakdown of Demand and other charges to help you understand your bill:

Rate Part	Description	New Rate		Previous Rate
Basic Service Fee	A flat monthly fee that partially covers fixed costs associated with providing electricity to your location.	\$14.50		\$14.50
Energy Charge	Rate for each unit of energy used, regardless of when you use it	\$0.04584 / kWh		\$0.076833 - 1 st 900 kWh Additional kWh: \$0.062804 (Oct.-May) \$0.084752 (June-Sept.)
Demand Charge	The highest average usage in any 60-min. period from 2 - 7 p.m. weekdays (excluding holidays) each billing month	\$3 / kW (Oct.-May)	\$9 / kW (June-Sept.)	none

Note: Bills also include items like riders, adjustments and surcharges, which vary by location.

To better understand the difference between Energy Charge and Demand Charge, think about energy usage the way you'd think about driving a car: Energy Charge is like the price you pay per gallon of gas, while Demand Charge is like being charged for how high you "top out" your speedometer.

NOT SURE WHAT YOUR DEMAND IS?

Demand is printed on monthly bills. You also can log into your My Westar account online and select Energy Dashboard > My Energy > Peak Demand.

SHIFTING DEMAND IS SIMPLE

There are several easy steps you can take to shift your energy use outside of peak hours, such as:

- Wait a little later in the evening to start the dishwasher or do laundry. You can also set some major electrical appliances to run on a delay cycle or timer.
- Don't "stack your load." Turn off one item before turning on something else.
- Adjust your thermostat by a couple degrees so you don't heat or cool as much during peak hours. **Tip:** Use a programmable thermostat to make changing temperatures even easier. Just set it and forget it!
- If you have an electric vehicle, charge it overnight.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

Changes to your bill can be confusing, so we're available to answer any questions you may have. As a reminder, you can access information about your rate and bills anytime at WestarEnergy.com/Rates. However, if you'd like personal assistance, you're welcome to call us at **(800) 383-1183** from Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. One of our representatives will be glad to assist you.

Sincerely,

Your Customer Service Team

From: sylarvizu@sbcglobal.net
Subject: Fwd: Westar Energy Alert: Your daily usage hit a new high on January 29th
Date: January 30, 2019 at 9:12 AM
To: isharvizu@sbcglobal.net

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

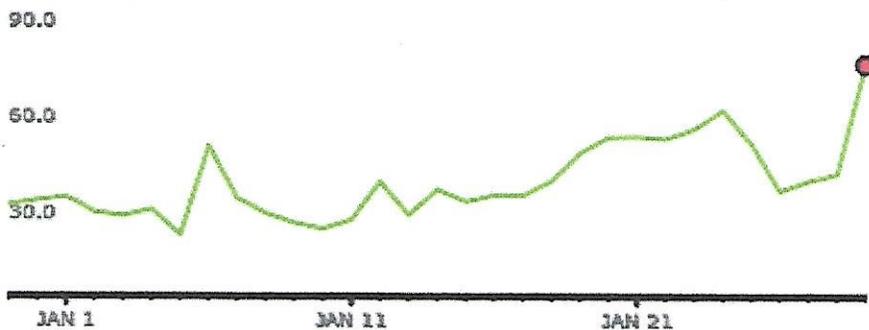
From: Westar.Energy.Customer.Service@westarenergy.com
Date: January 30, 2019 at 8:47:45 AM CST
To: sylarvizu@sbcglobal.net
Subject: Westar Energy Alert: Your daily usage hit a new high on January 29th



ISMAEL ARVIZU
2531 2ND AVE
LEAVENWORTH, KS 66048-7400
Account ID: *****1684

Your electrical usage hit a recent new high on January 29th.

The last 30 days



Usage Spike
72.6 Kwh on JAN 29

This spike is **90%** higher than your usage on the previous day

Cut Energy Costs

- **Avoid Billing Surprises with the Average Payment Plan** [View This Tip](#)
- **Severe Weather Awareness** [View This Tip](#)

[Visit alert preferences](#) to manage your email and mobile alerts.

February 13, 2019

Dear Senate Utilities Committee,

I am writing to ask you to support the Energy Fairness Act (SB 124), which will prevent utilities from financially penalizing people who have chosen to invest in solar power. My household made the decision to put solar panels on our home as a way to generate clean energy and support local small business, while also investing in our property. Although we knew this investment was never going to be a big "money-maker" and would not return as much as investing in the stock market probably would have, it seemed like a financially responsible decision. Now, however, with Weststar's new rates, we are being punished for this investment. Our electricity bills have already gone up considerably and we are frankly afraid of what they will be like in the summer when the demand charge will go up from \$3 to \$9 a KW hour.

Kansas residents with rooftop solar should not be punished!

Thank you.

Sincerely,

John White
Lawrence, Kansas

Feb 6, 2019

To whom it may concern,
I am writing to you today to express my support for the Energy Fairness Act (Senate bill # coming soon). I do not think it is fair for KCP&L to single out solar customers and charge them extra. Please support the Energy Fairness Act & support local solar companies.

Sincerely,
Mary F Ronden
190 N Somerset Ter
Apt 203
Olathe, Ks 66062

P.S. I am also a KCP&L customer.

February, 13, 2019

To the Representatives of Kansas,

I installed solar in January 2018. With the forced power plan change of Westar Energy to demand charges in the fall of 2018. I initially changed my power use pattern but with a family, you can't get everyone to change usage between 2-7pm consistently.

One unexpected effect was in preparation for the holidays. My family came to my house for both Thanksgiving and Christmas. The plan gives exceptions to holidays and weekends. But with a holiday, we plan to have most of the food prepared in advance so we could enjoy family and not be stuck in the kitchen. This spike in demand raised the full month power bill, but did not motivate me to change usage. The once a month spike nullifies any motivation to change everyday usage. The rate change is also low enough to not make it economically feasible to install a home battery. With 2019 Prices, to install a battery to time shift the load of my Solar, it would be a 15-20 year payback time with only a 10-year Warranty.

I have been testing to see if pre-warming, or in the case of summer months, pre-cooling, would save some money by conditioning the house between 12-2pm. But this is just a waste of energy in hopes to save money off peak demand. The house cools back down and we have to turn the furnace back on when we get home. This will hold true during the summer with Triple the Peak Demand rates of winter.

Please support the Energy Fairness Act. The monopoly of power companies in Kansas and the forced rate change has increased the living expense and goes against the rate increase requirement of "incentive to be efficient". This forced change discriminates against people who have tried to do the right thing.

Sincerely

Paul Mikols
Hutchinson, Kansas

Thank you Chairman Masterson, vice chairman Hawk, and members of the committee. I am Robert Rosenberg from Manhattan, a co-director of the Flint Hills Renewable Energy and Efficiency Co-op. The FHREECs are a group of volunteers who help people install solar panels by holding “barn raising events”, which we call Sunraisers.

The FHREECs are in favor of Senate Bill 124 because it will remove the punitive demand fees imposed on those small residential customers who put a solar panel on their roof. We don't like Demand fees because they are difficult to predict, to control, and to even explain. Westar claims that Demand fees won't discourage rooftop solar since they only add about \$30.00/month to an electric bill. However, there is a risk that a one-hour lapse of judgement can cause demand fees well over \$30.00. The threat of these demand fees have greatly impacted the number of new installations among FHREEC customers since our typical customer only generates about \$50.00/month of electricity.

Westar claims that demand fees will not severely discourage rooftop solar because the new 3-part rate plan provides a discount on the electricity that we actually use. To prove their point, Westar provides an example of a large residential customer who uses LOTS of electricity and who greatly benefits from those discounts. Westar demonstrates that this large user of electricity can save money with the Demand Plan, and solar panels can help with demand fees. This is true! But there is an injustice. The current rate plan subsidizes the large user of electricity (someone with a mansion, hot tub, etc.) and discourages the rest of us. The subsidy goes to people who need it the least and punishes those of us who conserve and are willing to invest our own money for solar panels to avoid buying electricity generated from burning fossil fuels.

The KCC has not done their job so now it is up to the Senate Utility Commission to protect the Kansans who generate renewable energy. We all know that rooftop solar is right for everyone in Kansas and that it is here to stay. We ask the Senate Utility Commission to move Kansas into the modern age by approving Senate Bill 124.

I'm available for any questions.

Robert Rosenberg

robrosnrg@yahoo.com

Jay & Sara Shivers
1374 30th Street
Severy, Kansas 67137

Re: Senate Bill No. 124 and House Bill No. 2190: The Energy Fairness Act

To Whom It May Concern,

In fall of 2014, our family moved from Texas to Kansas with the intent to build a house on the family farm and continue it into the next generation. We always wanted a solar or wind installation but were waiting for the right opportunity. After our move, we immediately noticed a major difference in energy costs. We paid \$0.09/kwh at our previous residence in Texas. Our new bills in Kansas with Westar Energy were averaging \$0.13/kwh, a 44 percent increase in electric costs. We decided that a renewable energy system would be essential on our new home.

In 2015, we began construction on our new home and detached garage. we arranged the garage in a way to maximize solar energy. We designed our house to be as energy efficient as possible. Upon moving in, we hired a local small business to install a 5.56KW solar array. After federal tax deductions for renewable energy, our approximately 9,000 dollar system had a calculated seven year pay off. With the new system, our bills were fantastic (especially after living through many Texas summers). We still paid our base fees for being connected to the system and had minimal bills for about six months of the year. The other six months of the year, when the solar panels were not at their optimal angle with the sun, we happily paid our electric bill for servicing our home's needs.

We were very disappointed in 2018 when Westar Energy moved solar customers to a new demand-based billing system, increasing our yearly cost an estimated \$400 and greatly increasing the payoff period of our investment.

We understand the other side of the argument, that we aren't paying enough for being connected to the system and benefits that come with it. To that end:

- We use our solar system to reduce our bills, not to erase them. We pay monthly connection fees and, prior to the demand fees, paid sizeable bills during half of the year.
- The few months of the year we produced more electricity than we consumed, we fed energy back into the grid during the sunniest and hottest parts of the afternoon, when demand is the highest. Rather than adding to the overall demand, we're covering our own use and contributing to those in my area. Additionally, when my excess power goes to the grid, I am credited at \$0.02/kwh for my excess production while my neighbor still pays full price for that same electricity.
- Westar Energy has never contributed to the installation or maintenance of my solar production system. In fact, I paid a special fee up front to Westar Energy to allow me to use solar.

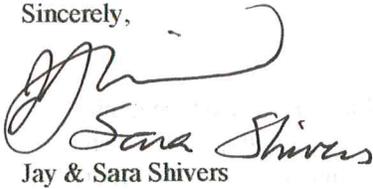
We currently operate a farm, a small business, and have two small children. Every month we save for our retirement, for our children's future college tuition, for us to expand our farm when the opportunity arises, and to reinvest in our small business. What contributions should we reduce to pay for these new fees? From our retirement or children's college fund contributions? Our farm savings? Our business

reinvestment savings? Though it may not seem like much, it all adds up in the long run. With demand fees, our solar investment may not pay for itself before it reaches the end of its useful lifespan.

We urge you to please support House Bill No. 2190 or Senate Bill No. 124 to treat us and all the other solar generation customers fairly and support a booming industry.

Please feel free to contact us if you would like to discuss the topic.

Sincerely,



Sara Shivers
Jay & Sara Shivers

Don & Jan Stephens
1441 30th Street
Severy, Kansas 67137

Re: Senate Bill No. 124 and House Bill No. 2190: The Energy Fairness Act

To Whom It May Concern,

We installed a 5 kilowatt solar generation system in 2016 in hopes of reducing our bills and doing our part to improve the environment. We were disappointed in 2018 when we found out that only solar customers are being subjected to a new billing system that negates the savings realized from our own solar electricity production. Our solar array reduced our bills but did not cancel them out. We understand that Westar Energy believes we, as solar customers, do not pay our fair share. Our bills were reduced but never cancelled out. We still paid plenty in our monthly electricity bill, especially given that we have other meters on our account for our farm operation.

We expected our solar installation to pay for itself in approximately seven to eight years, or less, if Westar rates continued to increase. Now, our payback period has at least doubled and our bills look pretty similar to the way they were prior to our solar investment. The concept of punishing solar customers is baffling when we see that the solar industry is booming in America, that solar power is an excellent source of clean renewable energy, and that many other states offer incentives for such residential installations.

We urge you to please support House Bill No. 2190 or Senate Bill No. 124 to apply fair rates to us and the other solar generation customers across this great state.

Sincerely,



Don and Jan Stephens

Before the Senate Utilities Committee

Chairman Masterson and honorable members of the Committee

Thanks for your attention to my testimony in favor of the Energy Fairness Act. I'm Craig Yorke - a retired surgeon from Topeka and a board member of the Climate and Energy Project. EFA makes sense on three levels. 1. Individual Choice. Utility rates are too high. EFA gives individual Kansans a tool to reduce them. 2. Economic Growth. Current demand charges have made residential solar uneconomic. EFA would support the industry and create hundreds of jobs - jobs that pay well, don't require a college degree and can't be outsourced. It also moves us toward a more distributed and resilient grid. 3. Climate. The climate is changing to our disadvantage. Solar energy nudges us toward a low carbon future in which we humans will be more likely to thrive.

The urgent isn't the same as the important. And EFA is important - worth remembering in your environment of political urgency.

Thanks again.
Craig Yorke, M.D.
8 February 2019

Submitted by: Jeff Head

Phone: 785-539-5173 / Zip Code: 66502

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: I scoured the Westar site for a good explanation for why they think this demand charge to solar customers is justified and I could find nothing, other than a general statement that they believe there is cross subsidization of solar customers by the general public, without any mention or accounting of the fact that solar output peaks during the summer during their peak demand, when they are struggling to keep up. And for that, solar customers are charged a penalty?! I do not know how local utilities cover this deficit in Kansas but some utilities in some parts of the country do so by firing up older peaking plants which are inefficient and highly polluting.

Regardless, if having a backup generation source for peak demand requires a premium charge by the utility, then any net metered source of electricity which helps meet peak demand should be welcomed and encouraged. If there is a rational explanation why residential solar should incur a punitive demand charge, I have yet to hear it. I will keep looking.

Of course there are not enough residential solar customers today to make much of a dent in peak demand, but there is growing demand based on what I perceive to be a growing solar industry in Kansas. I see no reason why solar electrical generation could not be a significant non-polluting electrical supplier during peak demand in 20 years AND provider of jobs to Kansas. And in 20 years when today's children are grown up and experiencing what we know will be worsening effects of climate change, they have to know we tried to do the right thing. Sincerely, Jeff Head

Submitted by: Judy Ebersole

Phone: 3166529438 / Zip Code: 67211

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I have rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system that was installed after Oct. 28, 2015., I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: We installed our solar panels because we believe that it is the right thing to do for the environment. Rather than discouraging the use of solar, our utilities should be embracing the essentially free electricity that they are able to use because we have paid for the infrastructure to produce it and we are maintaining it. Because we are ecologically minded, we don't use much electricity in general. Under the new rate plan, we are now paying essentially what we paid before installing the photo voltaic system. Under the old rate plan, we were seeing a savings, although, even then, it would take years to just recoup the costs of the installation. I believe in paying my fair share, but at this point, I feel that the utility company is extracting more than my fair share from me through the current rate plan. Please help correct what is now a disincentive to install solar panels.

Submitted by: Preston Goering

Phone: 3162840423 / Zip Code: 67114

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I have rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system that was installed after Oct. 28, 2015.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: 1. These bills will support the use of solar energy rather than discourage it which will encourage the use of alternative energy and decrease global warming. 2. The bills will support the freedom of every American to take care of themselves as they see fit and not support big business attempts at controlling those decisions. 3. Solar energy gives us a way to prepare for retirement—we will be able to afford our utilities later in life and support ourselves, less likely to be a burden on society if we run out of money. 4. Westar is already getting back a lot of money through the solar power we are producing but not using, and through net metering, which starts over at \$0 every Jan. 1. So whatever power we have saved up (which Westar has) is forfeited. 5. Solar power is where things are going—if Kansas falls behind, it will suffer economically as companies who want to use it look to states that are friendly to solar.

Submitted by: Darrel Hart

Phone: 316-648-7207 / Zip Code: 67205

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I don't have solar nor plans to install solar in the near future, but I'm very concerned about fees that make rooftop solar prohibitive.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: a government regulated monopoly should not be permitted to inflict punitive rates and requirements to inhibit the financial viability of what citizens can do with the sunlight that falls on their property.

Submitted by: Margaret Toews

Phone: 3162588900 / Zip Code: 67117

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: A monopoly such as Westar should not have the right to penalize those customers with the means and initiative to move to locally generated power from solar panels.

Submitted by: Jill Ralph

Phone: 19134887303 / Zip Code: 66210-1317

Tell us more about you: I'm a KCP&L customer, I don't have solar nor plans to install solar in the near future, but I'm very concerned about fees that make rooftop solar prohibitive.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: Alternative energy users should not have to pay penalties!

Submitted by: Linda Foster

Phone: 785-413-0349 / Zip Code: 67466

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system., I'm a business owner concerned about future fees on businesses who produce their own energy.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: As a business owner, I already pay more per kilowatt. Plus the "peak demand" system routinely adds more to my monthly bill. I know that solar panels could greatly reduce my overhead, BUT I'm hesitant to make the investment. My concern is that Westar's penalties/tariffs will negate any benefit I might gain from installing solar panels.

I do understand the position of the utility companies that must maintain equipment and provide service to customers — solar or no solar. However, there could actually be a significant benefit to electric companies if they looked at rooftop solar as a partner rather than competition. Utilities often have to buy extra power during the hottest parts of the day in the summer. On the other hand, rooftop solar producers are at the top of their game during hot, sunny days. A partnership between the utility company and the rooftop solar producer would both reduce demands on the grid, and help avoid the purchase of expensive outside power. It is a win/win.

Submitted by: Barbara Johnston

Phone: / Zip Code: 66006

Tell us more about you: I have rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system that was installed after Oct. 28, 2015.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: As a resident with solar array on our roof, I think it's regrettable that the KCC voted to penalize rooftop solar customers with extra fees. Kansas will benefit from solar and wind power investments, and the KCC acted despite public disapproval of the decision. Approval of SB 124 and HB 2190 means that Kansans will not be penalized for investing in renewable energy sources.

Submitted by: Jane Byrnes

Phone: 3166444640 / Zip Code: 67211

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I have rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system that was installed after Oct. 28, 2015.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: As a retiree on a fixed income, I wanted to invest in lower electric bills throughout my future. I'm sorely disappointed that my preparation for my future solvency has been foiled by higher, punitive rates.

Submitted by: Michael Sutherland

Phone: 316-413-9971 / Zip Code: 67114

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I have rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system that was installed after Oct. 28, 2015.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: As a retiree we are on a fixed income we have to look at opportunities in ways that we can help cut down on utility bills to aid in our other necessities of life like food and grandkids.

Submitted by: Edmond Stansberry

Phone: 7857276036 / Zip Code: 66044

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: as a solar installer in kansas we need to support all bills that protect customers and encourage green industry

Submitted by: Mary Pat Lenahan, SCL

Phone: 913-758-6537 / Zip Code: 66048

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I have rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system that was installed after Oct. 28, 2015.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: Because it assists families and helps to protect our resources. Thank you!

Submitted by: Larry Stephenson

Phone: / Zip Code: 67052

Tell us more about you: I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: Big corporations should stop trying to control our lives.

Submitted by: Christy Axford Allen

Phone: 9134865577 / Zip Code: 66215

Tell us more about you: I'm a KCP&L customer, I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system.

Submitted by: Leila Emack

Phone: 620-665-7914 / Zip Code: 67502

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I don't have solar nor plans to install solar in the near future, but I'm very concerned about fees that make rooftop solar prohibitive.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: Citizens need all the help they can get with energy costs and Kansas has such great unobstructed sun we need to take full advantage of the clean energy while not punishing or prohibiting people for using it.

Submitted by: Charles Nowlin

Phone: / Zip Code: 64137

Tell us more about you: I'm a KCP&L customer, I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system., I don't have solar nor plans to install solar in the near future, but I'm very concerned about fees that make rooftop solar prohibitiv

Share your thoughts about SB 124: Citizens should have the right to produce their own power without penalty. There are numerous benefits to everyone by doing so. Energy gets put back into the grid for the entire community, it's beneficial to the environment and global warming, allows people to save money over time on energy expenses, and offers protection from energy loss during and after a potential natural disaster, which could literally save lives

Submitted by: Rose Hoffmeyer

Phone: 9137589755 / Zip Code: 66048

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I have rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system that was installed after Oct. 28, 2015.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: Citizens should not be penalized for helping to care for our earth! State legislators should be encouraging their efforts.

Submitted by: Kent Rowe

Phone: 13164097178 / Zip Code: 67228

Tell us more about you: I have rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system that was installed after Oct. 28, 2015., I'm a business owner concerned about future fees on businesses who produce their own energy.,

Share your thoughts about SB 124: clean energy is a right for everyone.

Submitted by: Amber Stenger

Phone: 9136205172 / Zip Code: 65809

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: Climate change is real, and we need to get carbon emission to zero by 2025. Renewable energy like solar is vital!

Submitted by: Holger Meyer

Phone: 316-347-3889 / Zip Code: 67220

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: climate is changing and we need to reduce carbon emissions NOW.

Submitted by: Kazu Chatani

Phone: 9139524141 / Zip Code: 66061

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I have rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system that was installed after Oct. 28, 2015.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: Demand charges makes it difficult to operate household work/activity.

I went to solar last year, and this changes will penalize me by extra charge. It will require even longer to break even.

This will reduce the public effort to be more energy efficient as well as help with peak demand and its unnecessary capacity for low use age time.

Submitted by: Jim Triplett

Phone: / Zip Code: 66762

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I have rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system that was installed after Oct. 28, 2015.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: distributed generation is going to be the future, and renewable energy is key to reducing greenhouse gases. I wanted to reduce my carbon footprint, so I installed 8.5 KW using funds from my retirement funds. At the time, solar provided as good or better return than my retirement investment, but The Kansas Corporation Commission and Westar have wiped that out. The legislature passed net metering to encourage private energy development, but that was nullified by the actions of KCC and Westar. The social justice argument used by Westar carries a much greater emotional argument than a factual one. Westar could compensate easily though adjustments in their rate structures for those who can't afford solar, but that might cut into stockholders returns. I question whether a corporation with shareholders has any business functioning as a public utility, since their decisions are designed to protect their investors. Cooperatives have their customers interest at heart, since they are the shareholders. I understand that the net metering issue does not provide for me to make a contribution to the grid maintenance that Westar has, and I am willing to contribute to that. Co-generation would be a better solution, where I pay retail and they pay wholesale just like any other generator on the grid. The demand charge is not designed to remedy the social justice issue, but to intimidate private solar development.

Submitted by: Nathalie Solger

Phone: 9135685070 / Zip Code: 66202

Tell us more about you: I'm a KCP&L customer, I don't have solar nor plans to install solar in the near future, but I'm very concerned about fees that make rooftop solar prohibitive.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: Every Kansan should be able to manage their electricity usage in a manner that suits their needs. The solar industry is strong and growing, and passing state legislation in favor of solar is not only good for homeowners, it's also a driver for economic growth, and Kansas could really use that right now. Greater expansion of renewable energy sources is needed now more than ever and with solar jobs being some of the fastest growing jobs, it would be a huge mistake of Kansas passed up this opportunity to help drive investment into the solar industry and the state economy.

Submitted by: Bob Solger

Phone: 9132216253 / Zip Code: 64079

Tell us more about you: I'm a business owner concerned about future fees on businesses who produce their own energy.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: For approximately 15 years my business was located in Kansas and at one time we employed 18 people. Due to the lack of a favorable state solar policy that provides for favorable rates to consumers and businesses, as well as creates good paying jobs, we moved our business to Missouri 2 years ago. Missouri has a favorable state solar policy and recently passed a grid modernization bill. The sun is shining in Missouri providing favorable rates for solar customers and creates jobs. The following appeared in national solar newsletter, SolarWake Up on February 5, 2019. "Jobs, Jobs, Jobs. What do Florida, California, New Jersey, Hawaii, New Mexico Minnesota and Missouri have in common? The fastest growing job is solar installer! The median pay was \$18.98 per hour and is projected to grow over 100% by 2026. There is very little that these states agree on but every politician talks about jobs during their election." The choice is yours and I look forward to you making the right decision.

Submitted by: Douglas Peel

Phone: 8162256875 / Zip Code: 66204

Tell us more about you: I'm a KCP&L customer, I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: I am a prospective home buyer. Installing a solar water heater is lucrative-- it would raise equity of my home, particularly when the future of the energy industry is in renewable energy, and save me money in the long run. I have lived in JoCo for the last 33 years, and if I continue to stay in JoCo, an investment in solar will lower my energy bills in the long run. There are numerous articles regarding the benefits of going solar and calculating energy costs, including the one posted by the government. (<https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/estimating-cost-and-energy-efficiency-solar-water-heater>). We cannot shop around to buy our electrical needs, and allowing just a few companies that much control over our utility rates is anti-Kansan and anti-capitalistic, especially when we're trying to encourage business growth in an industry that is trying to do the right thing. Would it be fair for the electric company to charge a surcharge just because I use LED lights over incandescent bulbs, or allow the gas company to charge me more because I installed energy efficient windows? No, it would not, and discourage people from moving to Kansas which supports the local economy. Therefore, I support HB 2190 which establishes fairness for both businesses who are part of the solar industry and also for the homeowner who lives in Kansas.

Submitted by: Michael Lee

Phone: 7852945854 / Zip Code: 66046

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system., I represent an organization that is concerned about the future of fees on constituents who produce their own energy.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: I am writing to express my support for SB 124 and HB 2190. As a Solar Industry Professional, I can attest firsthand how the residential market in Kansas has been negatively impacted, stunting growth and preventing companies from hiring capable workers who wish to build a more renewable future in Kansas. I have fielded many calls from concerned and disappointed customers who have had solar installed, only to have the benefits of self-generation to lost to high demand charges. Solar companies in Kansas are now turning their focus to Missouri, where growth continues. If these bills are not passed to rectify the damage done by the KCC to the distributed generation market, students currently studying solar technology at Cloud and Johnson County Community Colleges in Kansas will find their dream solar jobs in other states, taking with them their tax dollars. We must support these bills to ensure that Kansas can create their own clean energy future, and make their own choice as to where their electricity comes from. Thank you.

Submitted by: Renae Hansen

Phone: 7852211734 / Zip Code: 66409

Tell us more about you: I have rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system that was installed after Oct. 28, 2015.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: I believe as a citizen I have a right to produce my own energy at a fair price. I personally am contributing to lowering the carbon emissions.

Submitted by: Judy Stephens

Phone: 017852432149 / Zip Code: 66901

Tell us more about you: I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system., I don't have solar nor plans to install solar in the near future, but I'm very concerned about fees that make rooftop solar prohibitive.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: I believe it is VERY IMPORTANT that Kansas continues to support and build the renewable energy progress in our state! We have plenty of wind and sun; why would we not use it's energy? In addition, we will always need utility produced electricity by coal or gas, so I am not in opposition to that.

Submitted by: George Hoech

Phone: 9133626140 / Zip Code: 66205

Tell us more about you: I'm a KCP&L customer, I have rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system that was installed after Oct. 28, 2015.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: I can have a direct hand in reducing my carbon footprint.

Submitted by: Liatris Studer

Phone: 785-271-2155 / Zip Code: 66614

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: I currently own solar panels, but I am afraid to set them up (even to charge batteries not connected to the electrical system) for fear of incurring a penalty on my home electrical bill.

Submitted by: C.L. Maurer

Phone: 7856916053 / Zip Code: 66047

Tell us more about you: I have rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system that was installed after Oct. 28, 2015.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: I do not believe in demand charges

Submitted by: Douglas Johnson

Phone: 620-662-9397 / Zip Code: 67501

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: I have a 1KW solar system installed and want to add more solar systems, please don't let anything get in the way of my plans and hopes!!!!!!!!!! Thank You!!

Submitted by: Lee Wheeler

Phone: 3167060867 / Zip Code: 67062

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I have rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system that was installed after Oct. 28, 2015., I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system., I'm a business owner

Share your thoughts about SB 124: I have been excited since 2011 to be involved with rooftop solar installations on several homes of family members and an NGO, Mennonite Central Committee in N. Newton, KS. After spending time living and working in North Korea with Christians Friends of Korea on a USAID food assistance monitoring project I realized the impact of energy shortage on the lives of normal people. Upon returning to USA I looked for ways to practice what I preach (learned from the experience) and install renewable solar on several homes and MCC office. My first installation had 2 phases and was not affected by Koch Industries efforts to disincentivize individuals to produce their own energy. I am net energy neutral with 1970's solar air, solar hot water from 2011, and seasonal use of wood burning high efficient insert stove.

Later projects were affected since Oct 2015 KCC decisions to only allow month to month net metering.

And now with recent discouragement of demand charges representing more than half the electrical energy cost the cost of producing my own energy has sky rocketed to 2-3 times the cost/kwh of the standard residential rate, essentially penalizing me for distributed generation and a passion for caring for our communal creation.

As a Christian I feel this is quite unfair to discourage small business investment in rooftop solar.

Submitted by: Nelson Kilmer

Phone: 6202174272 / Zip Code: 67062

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: I have had solar on my house for 7 years and know how much clean energy it produces. The electric rate structured should not be set up to discriminate against those that want to install solar or who already have installed solar which provides clean energy without emissions. CO2 emissions are a serious threat to the environment now and in the future. All the energy produced by solar comes during the day and helps offset the peak load for the power company which is a benefit to the power companies.

Submitted by: Bryan Welch

Phone: 7852490609 / Zip Code: 66047

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: I have rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system.

Submitted by: Sharon Ashworth

Phone: 7858652491 / Zip Code: 66044

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: I have rooftop solar, installed prior to Oct. 28, 2015. Distributed generation of energy should be encouraged not penalized for the following reasons: 1) small business and job creation, 2) potential to contribute power during peak demand, 3) reduction in household energy costs, 4) reduction in household contribution to greenhouse gases. We should not be trying to wring every last carbon molecule out of our available coal. The state of Kansas can, and should, invest in a sustainable energy future. That future includes using our non-renewable energy sources for critical, intense energy needs (manufacturing, water treatment for examples), while using distributed solar and wind for relatively simple, low intensity household energy needs. The solar panels on my house are one contribution I make so that my daughter might have a brighter future.

Submitted by: Jose Mateos

Phone: 9136360375 / Zip Code: 66071

Tell us more about you: I'm a KCP&L customer, I have rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system that was installed after Oct. 28, 2015.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: I have solar and don't think the demand charge rates are fair for families like mine!

Submitted by: Angie Babbit

Phone: 785-393-6462 / Zip Code: 66049

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I don't have solar nor plans to install solar in the near future, but I'm very concerned about fees that make rooftop solar prohibitive.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: I have too many trees around my house to have rooftop solar, but it is ethical and prudent for anyone who has the means to safely generate energy from the sun to do so without any penalties from the energy companies that are tied to the coal/gas industry.

Submitted by: kathleen stafford

Phone: 8165232938 / Zip Code: 66205

Tell us more about you: I'm a KCP&L customer

Share your thoughts about SB 124: I planned on installing solar for my house in Fairway, KS. I care about the environment.

Submitted by: Royce Hillegeist

Phone: 785-452-0346 / Zip Code: 67455

Tell us more about you: I have rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system that was installed after Oct. 28, 2015.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: I purchased my system because I am for clean energy, Tax credit and lowering my electrical charges. My savings calculations did not include extra fees beyond the registration and review charges by the utility company. If new charges are imposed they should be announced a few years before so people can have time to adjust their system or remove it completely.

Submitted by: Zack Osborn

Phone: 620-363-0824 / Zip Code: 66204

Tell us more about you: I'm a KCP&L customer, I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: I support SB 124 and HB 2190, the Energy Fairness Act because I feel strongly about the importance of growing renewable energy in Kansas as well as the rest of the country. I graduated college with a degree focusing on sustainability, society, and natural resource management and I believe that the growth of the solar industry will not only bring a number of new jobs to our state, but help to ensure that Kansas continues to be the clean, beautiful state it is long into the future. Hindering the growth of clean alternative energy is a position driven only by greed and does not take the best interests of our state and its citizens into account. The Energy Fairness Act will help to protect those Kansans who have committed and invested in solar, as well as bring confidence to prospective solar customers and businesses that have been wary of investing in a state that has uniquely punished the very people wanting to do good by the environment and the economy.

Submitted by: Kris Holmes

Phone: / Zip Code: 66606

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I don't have solar nor plans to install solar in the near future, but I'm very concerned about fees that make rooftop solar prohibitive.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: I support the efforts of Kansans to produce their own energy by investing in technology to enable solar collecting and wind power. These activities not only bring more jobs and more money into the state, but they have long-term benefit to the environment. We should be aiding these efforts, not hampering them.

Submitted by: Kendyl Leigh McDougald

Phone: 6207945245 / Zip Code: 66062

Tell us more about you: I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: I support the efforts towards a cleaner energy future within the state of Kansas. I am presently not a homeowner, but will be in the future, and feel a responsibility for voicing my support for nondiscriminatory access to solar energy production and energy rates.

Submitted by: Ben Dickman

Phone: 7858243392 / Zip Code: 67738-0275

Tell us more about you: I have rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system that was installed after Oct. 28, 2015.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: I support the Energy Fairness Act for two reasons. Westar and other utilities have argued that solar power producers are using their distribution system without paying their share of the costs. I disagree. Most solar power producers are still going to use more power than they produce and are already paying their share of the distribution costs on the net energy that they still use. Imposing additional charges on solar power producers is going to encourage those solar power producers to completely leave the grid which is becoming a more attractive option all the time. This will shift the entire burden of these costs to the remaining customers.

The second reason I support the Energy Fairness Act is that the fossil fuels used to generate electricity are receiving massive tax subsidies which solar power producers do not receive and are not being accounted for in the rate structure. This gives power produced from fossil fuels an unfair competitive advantage over solar power and the customers who use fossil fuel power are receiving an indirect benefit from these tax subsidies which solar power producers do not enjoy.

Submitted by: Clifford Hammond

Phone: 7858297797 / Zip Code: 67401

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: I think this is another attempt of the rich to control the poor.

Submitted by: Helen Hands

Phone: 6202823428 / Zip Code: 67601

Tell us more about you: I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: I think wind and solar power will be our primary source of energy in the future because of the threat of climate change and because fossil fuels are becoming more expensive than renewables. In a state that values independence and personal responsibility, being able to produce one's own energy seems like a reasonable thing to do. I understand that utilities need to protect their investments and future revenues. However, I think it would be better for them to get more involved in renewables, such as being an installer and servicer of solar panels than to stall progress on new innovations and interfere with individuals trying to do the right thing for the environment and the health of other Kansans.

Submitted by: Liza Galindo

Phone: 9134495715 / Zip Code: 64109

Tell us more about you: I'm a KCP&L customer

Share your thoughts about SB 124: I want a clean energy source.

Submitted by: Cait Sidener

Phone: / Zip Code: 66046

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: I want a future for my daughter and to show her we worked as a state to provide a more energy efficient approach than what is currently in place.

Submitted by: Bricen Henning

Phone: 9134262657 / Zip Code: 66103

Tell us more about you:

Share your thoughts about SB 124: I want a to see a green future

Submitted by: cindy hoedel

Phone: / Zip Code: 66862

Tell us more about you: I don't have solar nor plans to install solar in the near future, but I'm very concerned about fees that make rooftop solar prohibitive.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: I want cleaner energy for Kansas and homeowners should be allowed to save costs on energy however they can.

Submitted by: Caleb Svaty

Phone: 7855311597 / Zip Code: 67454

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system., I'm a business owner concerned about future fees on businesses who produce their own energy.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: I want energy independence.

Submitted by: Dr.Robert McGowan

Phone: / Zip Code: 66007

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: I want to install solar to reduce my carbon footprint.

Submitted by: Stephanie Iser

Phone: 8163018358 / Zip Code: 66205

Tell us more about you: I'm a KCP&L customer, I don't have solar nor plans to install solar in the near future, but I'm very concerned about fees that make rooftop solar prohibitive.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: I want to live in state that supports common sense policies to address climate change.

Submitted by: Jeremiah Zachgo

Phone: / Zip Code: 67455

Tell us more about you: I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: If I pay for a solar system they should not get my power for free

Submitted by: Ethan Mahin

Phone: 785-527-1174 / Zip Code: 66939

Tell us more about you: I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system., I'm a business owner concerned about future fees on businesses who produce their own energy.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: If the gas company doesn't raise your rate because you have a fire place, the electric companies should NOT be able to raise your rate because you want to make some of your own electricity. The water district can't charge me more because I drill my own well, and pump my own water, why should it be any different for producing your own electricity?

Submitted by: Bob and Lorna Harder

Phone: 316-200-4724 / Zip Code: 67062

Tell us more about you:

Share your thoughts about SB 124: In 2011, we made the decision to install solar to reduce both our carbon footprint and our energy costs. The solar installation was completed in November 2011.

During the ensuing 87 months, of the total 55.6 MWh produced, we have fed 11.5 MWh back into the power grid. Those 11.5 MWh were not reimbursed, and further were resold at a profit by the power company. At the same time, we have seen our connection fee rise, more than doubling from \$16.00/month at the outset, to the current \$32.50/month.

We appreciate that the grid serves as our power storage system and understand that a reasonable fee should be charged. However, given that the power companies, based on Kansas laws and regulations, receive no-cost power from residential solar producers, and that they receive peak production during peak hours of usage across the grid, the argument that residential solar should be singled out to pay additional fees during peak hours is without merit.

While we are not Westar customers, these bills are very important in setting precedent for all residential solar customers in the state of Kansas. We support their passage.

Submitted by: Marcel Harmon

Phone: / Zip Code: 66049

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: in our state's efforts to both mitigate and adapt to climate change, we must a) make it as easy and as beneficial as possible for individuals and businesses to access renewable energy for their own uses, and b) create an environment that facilitates the growth of renewable energy production and associated businesses. The evidence is pretty clear that we have to move in this direction as quickly as possible (<https://www.kansascity.com/news/local/community/joco-913/joco-opinion/article224470190.html>), and these bills support that effort. The KCC's regressive ruling is harmful to individual families, as well as our state's long term viability and economic growth, and it must be rectified.

Submitted by: Lee Gum

Phone: 9139614329 / Zip Code: 66106

Tell us more about you: I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: In the U.S. my tax dollars go to subsidize fossil fuel companies against my wishes. They knew their products would lead to CO2 greenhouse warming in 1980 and did not pave the way for new technologies such as solar. They said we were "waiting for solar to be economically viable" and continue to this day making sure it is out of reach of consumers. That is not capitalism. It is not a fair playing field. And it is unethical, even murderous. In the face of runaway warming and mass animal and probably human extinction, it is the consumer that can save our planet IF GIVEN A FAIR CHANCE.

Submitted by: Jason Peterson

Phone: 9132442307 / Zip Code: 66212

Tell us more about you: I'm a KCP&L customer, I have rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system that was installed after Oct. 28, 2015., I'm a business owner concerned about future fees on businesses who produce their own energy.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: IOU's are a monopoly in Kansas.

Submitted by: Chilton W. McLaughlin

Phone: 9139637187 / Zip Code: 66071

Tell us more about you: I'm a KCP&L customer, I have rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system that was installed after Oct. 28, 2015.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: It allows Kansans to contribute to the solution to global warming while reducing their dependence on fossil fuels. It contributes distributed energy to the grid making it more resilient. It encourages Kansans to contribute with their own resources to the energy independence of their power supply. Utilities should welcome the addition of solar energy and wind energy which they do not have to provide the capital to erect. They should pay customers to put up solar installations not penalize them. Utilities need to change their business plan to embrace the future and work with it not discourage it. Finally, penalties will lead to solar installations leaving the grid in favor of battery back up without utility participation which will be a loss for Kansas.

Submitted by: Mark Horst

Phone: 3163006077 / Zip Code: 67585

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I have rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system that was installed after Oct. 28, 2015., I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system., I'm a business owner

Share your thoughts about SB 124: It directly affects the payback of my investment in solar energy.

Submitted by: Martin Winkler

Phone: 8473705125 / Zip Code: 66049

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I don't have solar nor plans to install solar in the near future, but I'm very concerned about fees that make rooftop solar prohibitive., I'm a business owner concerned about future fees on businesses who produce their own energy.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: It does not penalize individuals who seek to benefit from solar power and because it reduces the reliance on carbon based energy.

Submitted by: Jason Hanna

Phone: 316 2021847 / Zip Code: 67235

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I have rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system that was installed after Oct. 28, 2015.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: It helps reduce my electric bill by 90%

Submitted by: Ellen Paulsen

Phone: / Zip Code: 66044

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: it is a fairness issue as well as an environmental issue.

Submitted by: Kevin Kowalik

Phone: 19133023313 / Zip Code: 66214

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: It is important to promote renewable energy

Submitted by: Dorothy Daley

Phone: 785 840 7289 / Zip Code: 66046

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: It is the right thing to do for the economy and environment. We must change to a clean energy economy and penalizing families who make an investment in solar energy is short sighted.

Submitted by: Nancy Hubble

Phone: / Zip Code: 66044

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: It is time to step up for clean energy. We must save our planet for the next generation.

Submitted by: Michael Chapman

Phone: 8165914503 / Zip Code: 66085

Tell us more about you: I'm a KCP&L customer, I have rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system that was installed after Oct. 28, 2015.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: It is way past time to think about the health of our planet and it's future. We need to encourage solar energy over gas coal and oil.

Submitted by: Scott Barth

Phone: 7855065007 / Zip Code: 66066

Tell us more about you: I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: It is wrong to charge customers more for trying to save energy.

Submitted by: Daniel

Phone: 7853314501 / Zip Code: 66044

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I have rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system that was installed after Oct. 28, 2015.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: It makes sense for meeting peak energy demands and will reduce carbon emissions.

Submitted by: Joseph Kendall-Morwick

Phone: / Zip Code: 66046

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: It prevents solar customers from being singled out for unfair rates. I'm not opposed to paying the same fees for access to and maintenance of the grid that all customers are given. I want to install solar through a local company but have determined that I would take too large of a loss and face too much uncertainty if I do with the rates Westar has in place.

Submitted by: Arno Miller

Phone: 6206624224 / Zip Code: 67501

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I have rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system that was installed after Oct. 28, 2015., I'm a business owner concerned about future fees on businesses who produce their own energy.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: it seems to me that we should be promoting solar generation in KS, not discouraging it. Admittedly, I don't understand what it takes to run a utility company, but it doesn't make sense to me to penalize solar users, who are usually generating lots of power during the peak demand hours.

Submitted by: Nina Warren

Phone: / Zip Code: 66502

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I don't have solar nor plans to install solar in the near future, but I'm very concerned about fees that make rooftop solar prohibitive.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: It will be helpful overall to foster greener energy. Anything that impedes that process puts us on the wrong path.

Submitted by: Byron Santangelo

Phone: / Zip Code: 66044

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: It will reduce greenhouse emissions; it will increase jobs and development in Kansas; it is consistent with freedom of choice.

Submitted by: Sandra Rickards

Phone: / Zip Code: 66049

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: It's a no brained. People want to use solar energy and not be penalized for managing the energy they use. It's a freedom we need to support and not be a road block to new technologies.

Submitted by: Irene Skeehan

Phone: 9137586536 / Zip Code: 66048

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I have rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system that was installed after Oct. 28, 2015.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: It's the right thing to do to begin to save Mother Earth from us greedy and selfish humans!

Submitted by: Michael Folk

Phone: 6206427094 / Zip Code: 66046

Tell us more about you: I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: It's an unfair act and backwards. We need to get Kansas to be a leader and clean energy is the future. Period.

Submitted by: william stafford

Phone: 9139157280 / Zip Code: 66205

Tell us more about you: I'm a KCP&L customer

Share your thoughts about SB 124: It's great for the environment and I want to install solar in my house.

Submitted by: David Nachman

Phone: / Zip Code: 66209

Tell us more about you: I'm a KCP&L customer, I don't have solar nor plans to install solar in the near future, but I'm very concerned about fees that make rooftop solar prohibitive.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: It's important for Kansans to have the choice to use solar energy.

Submitted by: Sarah Robins

Phone: 17859179028 / Zip Code: 66044

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: It's important to support renewable energy efforts in our community and in our state

Submitted by: Teri Canfield

Phone: 7857660935 / Zip Code: 66044

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: it's the right thing to do - and we must go with sustainable options asap.

Submitted by: Kathleen Nuckolls

Phone: 785-749-1080 / Zip Code: 66049

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: It's unfair to have different rates for different types of customers. The utilities' argument that solar users aren't paying enough to maintain the grid is bullsh*t.

Submitted by: William Wentz

Phone: 3167552924 / Zip Code: 67226

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I don't have solar nor plans to install solar in the near future, but I'm very concerned about fees that make rooftop solar prohibitive.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: Kansans deserve clean energy, and Kansas clean energy providers deserve a level playing field to do business.

Submitted by: Dawn Hawkins

Phone: 785-550-1632 / Zip Code: 66047

Tell us more about you: I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: Kansans have a right to a free market, to not be held hostage by monopolized utilities, and to invest in their own future and that of their heirs by securing renewable energy by means as they see fit, without a government-sanctioned fee that goes to private industry.

Submitted by: Michael

Phone: 7853930397 / Zip Code: 66046

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: Kansans have a right to choose their source of energy without punitive rate structures that mitigate cost benefits of distributed generation.

Submitted by: Richard Cowlshaw

Phone: 6202221366 / Zip Code: 67156

Tell us more about you: I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: Kansans should be incentivized not penalized for reducing their energy/carbon footprint. We should encourage all steps towards making out our state a leader in solar and wind energy production.

Submitted by: Ken Lassman

Phone: 785-843-0253 / Zip Code: 66046

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I don't have solar nor plans to install solar in the near future, but I'm very concerned about fees that make rooftop solar prohibitive.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: Kansas citizens need to plan for a resilient, smart grid in order to both mitigate and adapt to the changing weather patterns we are already experiencing and will experience in the future. This will facilitate low carbon energy for our children and for the economy of the future: show some leadership that will help all Kansans!

Submitted by: Corey Maley

Phone: / Zip Code: 66044

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: Kansas citizens should have the right to manage their energy via solar means without penalty.

Submitted by: Bart Maffry

Phone: 913.908.5127 / Zip Code: 66221

Tell us more about you: I'm a KCP&L customer, I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: Kansas has the worst net metering policy in the country, period.

Submitted by: David Van Tassel

Phone: 7858298276 / Zip Code: 67448

Tell us more about you: I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: Kansas is blessed with sunshine and we ought to harness it.

Submitted by: Kristin Riott

Phone: 9135307617 / Zip Code: 66208

Tell us more about you: I'm a KCP&L customer, I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: Kansas is solar rich and all citizens should be able to benefit from this asset

Submitted by: Michael Everhart

Phone: 913-710-8456 / Zip Code: 66064

Tell us more about you: I'm a KCP&L customer, I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system., I'm a business owner concerned about future fees on businesses who produce their own energy.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: Kansas is sticking its head in the sand regarding solar electric. Many other states and public utilities see the benefits of promoting decentralized power generation. When KCPL tries every trick to avoid providing power in rural kansas despite their mandate to provide it. Step into the light Kansas.

Submitted by: Sara Gregg

Phone: / Zip Code: 66044

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: Kansas needs to claim its full complement of energy resources! Stop penalizing solar energy!!

Submitted by: Stacy Shanahan

Phone: 3163086598 / Zip Code: 67207

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I don't have solar nor plans to install solar in the near future, but I'm very concerned about fees that make rooftop solar prohibitive.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: Kansas should be moving to renewable energy sources. It's past time to start helping the environment by utilizing solar (and wind) to the fullest extent. Do not make it cost prohibitive for individuals and businesses to make the switch.

Submitted by: Mary Shellito

Phone: 3164408651 / Zip Code: 67278

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I have rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system that was installed after Oct. 28, 2015.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: Looking to the future is the only way forward. Solar and wind energy are the future, not natural gas or coal. By making it financially unrewarding to use residential solar energy, Westar is making it harder for Kansans to protect the environment and create new jobs for energy workers in Kansas. These bills both need to pass to help Kansas move forward, not backwards.

Submitted by: Thea Perry

Phone: 7855500363 / Zip Code: 66044

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: My parents installed solar panels on our old farmhouse in 1986. I suppose they were early adopters, and I knew growing up that clean energy was a good idea. Kansas wants growth, and growth means increased energy demands. We should let willing homes and businesses help with that burden. 30 years after my family installed it's first solar panel, the barriers and rate gauging put in place by Westar, my energy provider, are preventing my family from investing in cleaner energy solutions for all of us.

Submitted by: Andrew Sharp

Phone: 620-217-1187 / Zip Code: 67062

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I have rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system that was installed after Oct. 28, 2015.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: My wife and I made the decision to invest in solar for many reasons. Taking advantage of this area's ample supply of sun seemed like a no-brainer. Saving money, while savings resources also seemed like a good move.

Although investing in solar is a conservative, long-term investment, we were excited to be a part of the clean-energy industry.

Demand charges for private solar users are quite short-sided, in our opinion. Actively DISCOURAGING customers from investing in solar is a "win-now" mindset with little consideration for the long-term outlook of the area.

It's Kansas, people! Let's harness the resources (wind and sun, especially) that we have in abundance. Passing the Energy Fairness Act is the right (and fair) thing to do, bottom-line.

Submitted by: Melanie Jenney

Phone: 3166860211 / Zip Code: 67208

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: people should have the right to make decisions that are fiscally and philosophically in line with their values without being penalized just because corporations want to eke out every cent, even to the environmental detriment of us all.

Submitted by: Leilani Grey

Phone: / Zip Code: 66604

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: People should have the right to use any natural resource any way they choose. No person or corporation should have the ability to prevent others from utilizing other forms of energy. Kansas is one of the the top 5 most sunniest States. It's shameful that the States is unable to create jobs from a valuable asset. I believe that the Energy Fairness Act will advance Kansas to become a clean energy state and provide green jobs Statewide.

Submitted by: Rebecca Bouska

Phone: 316-648-6406 / Zip Code: 67235

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: People should not be penalized for helping reduce energy consumption

Submitted by: Rachel Krause

Phone: 5126895655 / Zip Code: 66044

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I have rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system that was installed after Oct. 28, 2015.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: people should not be penalized for investing in their property and producing clean renewable energy! Favoring the profits of big utilities over the well-being of small businesses and home owners is not inline with Kansas values!

Submitted by: Mackenzie Knox

Phone: 7852496010 / Zip Code: 66046

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: people shouldn't be punished for wanting to take care of the environment, through the use of solar power

Submitted by: Kurt Horst

Phone: 6202170517 / Zip Code: 67062

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: Persons committed to environmental responsibility should not pay extra for saving energy.

Submitted by: Rick Cagan

Phone: / Zip Code: 66049

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I don't have solar nor plans to install solar in the near future, but I'm very concerned about fees that make rooftop solar prohibitive.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: power to the people

Submitted by: Kent Wilson

Phone: 9139915311 / Zip Code: 66208

Tell us more about you: I'm a KCP&L customer, I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: Renewable energy is cleaner and better for the environment. The overall future for consumers should be lower costs with less impact as technology improves. Jobs will not be lost but shift.

Submitted by: Cille King

Phone: 785-766-6992 / Zip Code: 66044

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I don't have solar nor plans to install solar in the near future, but I'm very concerned about fees that make rooftop solar prohibitive.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: Renewable energy is critical to reducing climate change.

Submitted by: Nathaniel Nickel

Phone: 6202003282 / Zip Code: 66046

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: Renewable energy is the future and use everyone should have free access and without penalization.

Submitted by: Anita Sullivan

Phone: 9135470206 / Zip Code: 66048-5024

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I'm a KCP&L customer, I have rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system that was installed after Oct. 28, 2015.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: Residents and businesses should not be taxed if they have invested in solar or wind energy at their own cost. We should be encouraging solar and wind energy, not discouraging folks.

Submitted by: Carol Shimeall

Phone: 9132678742 / Zip Code: 66062

Tell us more about you: I'm a KCP&L customer, I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: Rooftop solar is a win win. Fewer power plants will be needed and homeowners should get credit for power returned to the grid.

Submitted by: Cynthia Annett

Phone: / Zip Code: 66066

Tell us more about you: I have rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system that was installed after Oct. 28, 2015.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: rooftop solar is the future - distributed energy production is an essential component of our adaptation to climate disruption

Submitted by: Bob Eye

Phone: 785 224 0937 / Zip Code: 66044

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I don't have solar nor plans to install solar in the near future, but I'm very concerned about fees that make rooftop solar prohibitive., I'm a business owner concerned about future fees on businesses who produce their own energy.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: rooftop solar must not be subject to unlawful discrimination in rate designs.

Submitted by: Dorlan Bales

Phone: / Zip Code: 67204

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I don't have solar nor plans to install solar in the near future, but I'm very concerned about fees that make rooftop solar prohibitive.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: Rooftop solar should play an increasing role in the shift from climate change causing burning of fossil fuels to renewables like solar and wind power.

Submitted by: Herb Kloster

Phone: / Zip Code: 66208

Tell us more about you: I'm a KCP&L customer

Share your thoughts about SB 124: Solar energy is extremely important to the future of America

Submitted by: Jennifer Siemens

Phone: / Zip Code: 67219

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: Solar energy is much cleaner and beneficial to the environment. Those who want to use solar panels should not be penalized or discouraged, as it's a win for them and a win for the environment. It should be encouraged to go this route to protect our planet and its natural resources.

Submitted by: Dayne Balmer

Phone: (913) 337-6014 / Zip Code: 66061

Tell us more about you: I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: Solar Energy needs more support due to climate change.

Submitted by: Max

Phone: / Zip Code: 67063

Tell us more about you:

Share your thoughts about SB 124: Solar owners add to the energy generating infrastructure and should not have to pay an additional charge.

Submitted by: Tom Shrimplin

Phone: 785-991-0895 / Zip Code: 66067

Tell us more about you: I don't have solar nor plans to install solar in the near future, but I'm very concerned about fees that make rooftop solar prohibitive.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: solar power is one of the sources of power for the present, and the future

Submitted by: Cole Morrison

Phone: 6202316420 / Zip Code: 66762

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: Starting a renewable energy department with a local company was a dream come true, unfortunately that dream has been dampened by the rates Westar has brought to the table. I can only hope that this can be reversed and help restore my livelihood and business in south east Kansas

Submitted by: Craig Yorke

Phone: 7852328363 / Zip Code: 66604-2515

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I don't have solar nor plans to install solar in the near future, but I'm very concerned about fees that make rooftop solar prohibitive.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: The act allows Kansas to move toward a low carbon future.

Submitted by: William Leifer, M.D.

Phone: 785-633-5262 / Zip Code: 66546

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: The current rule is anti-competitive and, therefore, it is antithetical to free market capitalism. It suppresses innovation and progress in order to protect the profits of a few companies. Even worse, this is being done to Kansas customers by a company that recently moved its headquarters to MISSOURI. It is shameful, unethical, and is a slap in the face to Kansans. This must be changed immediately.

Submitted by: Stephen Hassler

Phone: 9137073296 / Zip Code: 66209-3320

Tell us more about you: I'm a KCP&L customer, I don't have solar nor plans to install solar in the near future, but I'm very concerned about fees that make rooftop solar prohibitive.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: the fees are largely an attempt to stifle competition from small-scale distributed sources

Submitted by: John Shellito

Phone: / Zip Code: 67278

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I'm a KCP&L customer, I have rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system that was installed after Oct. 28, 2015.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: The goal with global warming and high energy costs is to support renewable energy, not penalize people who are trying to move in that direction. Should we penalize people who use natural gas because they don't use coal anymore? This bill should be unanimously supported by the legislature.

Submitted by: Karen Nleson

Phone: 6202354676 / Zip Code: 66762

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: The price of electricity from Westar has more than doubled in the last 2 years - it's unsustainable. People need to be able to manage their energy consumption including adding solar or wind or any other personally managed devices.

Submitted by: Jane Byrnes

Phone: 3166444640 / Zip Code: 67211

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I have rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system that was installed after Oct. 28, 2015.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: The sun and the wind are FREE. While an administration fee is fair, gouging those of us who've spent big bucks on solar panels is not fair.

Submitted by: William Bradley

Phone: 9139088805 / Zip Code: 66221-2277

Tell us more about you: I'm a KCP&L customer, I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: There are ways to manage the threat distributed solar poses to big utilities without tipping the scales so far in the utilities' favor that it prevents a new technology from advancing unless it is in a solar farm controlled by the utility.

Submitted by: Gail Schmeidler

Phone: 13166190054 / Zip Code: 67037

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I have rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system that was installed after Oct. 28, 2015.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: They were placing our last panel on the roof as the announcement came down that we would be charged MORE for using what is know as a greener form of energy. How can green be a bad thing for the consumer and for a company that helps produce energy as well? I can not understand how I can visit other states, most recently Hawaii that many towns had residential areas with homes with solar systems. So how can island homes be resourceful and in the center of the midwest we continue to be part of a cycle that kicks green energy to the curb? I feel as a homeowner that I should not have to pay more when I am using less and saving energy for the future generations.

Submitted by: Kristy Howell

Phone: 2704988594 / Zip Code: 66212

Tell us more about you: I'm a KCP&L customer, I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: This demand charge does not take into consideration any benefits to the grid from solar installations. It also undermines the growth of the solar industry in Kansas. Neither is a tenable, sustainable solution to any conceivable problem.

Submitted by: Rebecca Armstrong

Phone: 316-371-9662 / Zip Code: 67226

Tell us more about you:

Share your thoughts about SB 124: This is the right thing to do for the environment, the economy, job growth and our community.

Submitted by: SHARON O'BRIEN

Phone: 785-838-4004 / Zip Code: 66047

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I don't have solar nor plans to install solar in the near future, but I'm very concerned about fees that make rooftop solar prohibitive.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: To save the planet!

Submitted by: Justin Moss

Phone: / Zip Code: 66614

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I don't have solar nor plans to install solar in the near future, but I'm very concerned about fees that make rooftop solar prohibitive.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: Two reasons. (1) We need to act urgently to speed the transition to 100% clean energy and construct a resilient energy grid. People with rooftop solar are part of the solution, not the problem, and they need to be rewarded with policy changes. It is morally wrong to stand in the way of transitioning to 100% clean energy. (2) Houses with rooftop solar are contributors to the grid. We do not need to be penalizing someone with higher rates, despite the fact that they are generating energy. It is unfair and morally wrong.

Submitted by: Seth Salmans

Phone: / Zip Code: 66030

Tell us more about you: I'm a KCP&L customer, I don't have solar nor plans to install solar in the near future, but I'm very concerned about fees that make rooftop solar prohibitive.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: Using available tech to reduce the load on our power stations is worth it alone. The fact that it has the chance to save Kansans money in a way that doesn't add extra pollutants in the air is a nice bonus. No reason for private companies to stifle innovation.

Submitted by: Sun Rea

Phone: 9137074374 / Zip Code: 66210

Tell us more about you: I'm a KCP&L customer, I don't have solar nor plans to install solar in the near future, but I'm very concerned about fees that make rooftop solar prohibitive., I'm a business owner concerned about future fees on businesses who produce their own energy.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: Utilizing roof top solar not only benefits customers but also the utility by lowering the demand when most needed, midday during the summer when demand is at its highest.

Submitted by: Michelle Graham

Phone: 7854273151 / Zip Code: 67466

Tell us more about you: I have rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system that was installed after Oct. 28, 2015., I'm a business owner concerned about future fees on businesses who produce their own energy.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: We all absolutely need to be doing our part in cleaning up the environment and using renewable energy is a great start! It is unfair to charge rooftop solar users more and punish them when they are helping the peak demand in the late afternoon by producing some of their own energy. Thank you!

Submitted by: Deborah Plummer

Phone: 785 554-1582 / Zip Code: 66536

Tell us more about you: I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: We almost went solar a few years ago but the economic crisis of 2007-08 never corrected for us and I wasn't able to get a full-time job .. and I was fearful of the cost. Although, climate change is real (no Chinese hoax) and we all must have solar and/or some derivative of saving our planet / earth .. we do not need utility corporations anymore as they stand .. we do not need the kochbrothers / fossil fuel industries any longer .. we need to have distributive energy re-imagined .. as set-up in the "New Green Deal" .. which was initially imagined in the late 1970s .. until it was destroy by the aforementioned men / industries ... by their lies .. We can no longer stand by these lies and if these "entities" are not going to prison for their scam ..then they must pay for the total re-invention of our energy needs before it's too late ... 10 yrs.

Submitted by: Stacy Schmidt

Phone: 914-634-1648 / Zip Code: 66006

Tell us more about you: I'm a KCP&L customer, I have rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system that was installed after Oct. 28, 2015.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: We already pay some of the highest energy rates in the country. You need to protect the consumer from even higher unfair punitive billing practices.

Submitted by: Tim Beisel

Phone: 3162591768 / Zip Code: 67114

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I have rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system that was installed after Oct. 28, 2015.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: We had a solar system installed in October 2017 and had no idea a demand charge would later be placed on us. This is unfair to change the rules on somebody after the fact and the \$40,000 plus investment we made for a greener America. Looking back before the demand charge took effect there were often times when our demand charge would of been so high that our solar installation would not of lowered our power bill at all. We have nothing but electric available to us at our location. We now have to run our appliances on timers, we have had to cut the power to our livestock de-icers, we are unable to cook our meals on our electric range and are unable to run our humidifiers for breathing purposes from the hours of 2pm to 7pm so as not to negate the solar system we had installed in it's entirety. We support SB 124 and HB 2190 in their entirety and feel these bills our critical to get our state back on track to a green future.

Submitted by: Valetta and Miner Seymour

Phone: 620-217-7536 / Zip Code: 67117

Tell us more about you: I have rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system that was installed after Oct. 28, 2015.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: We had photovoltaic panels installed on our roof nearly 3 years ago and never dreamed that this was anything but a positive act - positive for the environment and positive for Westar to help them meet their high energy demands. We realized that we probably won't get our payback in energy savings in our lifetime. But we did it for the good of the environment that is seriously threatened. It is beyond our imaginations that we would then be punished by our energy server. At a time when our environment needs everyone doing what they can to lower their carbon footprints, this policy only discourages that!! We do not understand your need to carry out an environmentally unfriendly policy.

Please know that we support SB 124 and HB 2190, and that our precious planet also supports it!

Valetta and Miner Seymour

Submitted by: Elvera Johnson

Phone: 785 580-9099 / Zip Code: 66605

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I don't have solar nor plans to install solar in the near future, but I'm very concerned about fees that make rooftop solar prohibitive.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: We had several discussions with a company in Lawrence about installing rooftop solar. When we found out that it would actually increase our costs, we gave up. Disincentives to renewable energy are bad environmental policy!

Submitted by: Robin Gingerich

Phone: 7853939612 / Zip Code: 66044

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I have rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system that was installed after Oct. 28, 2015.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: We have to do everything we can to save our planet.

Submitted by: CONSTANCE Chapman

Phone: 8165913635 / Zip Code: 66085-8863

Tell us more about you: I'm a KCP&L customer, I have rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system that was installed after Oct. 28, 2015.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: We must encourage more individual solar energy to help limit peak usage and the need for more power plants.

Submitted by: Lynne Hunter

Phone: 6202213819 / Zip Code: 67156

Tell us more about you: I have rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system that was installed after Oct. 28, 2015.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: We must encourage sustainable energy as soon as possible. It's an important investment in the future.

Submitted by: Ruth Rosell

Phone: 9139515462 / Zip Code: 66054 and 66202

Tell us more about you: I'm a KCP&L customer, I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: we need to be doing everything possible to convert to clean energy in order to address the crisis of climate change. Individuals and businesses can help in doing this, so everything possible should be done to encourage their use of rooftop solar and other forms of clean energy generation. Instead of penalizing them, they should be incentivized to do this.

Submitted by: A. L. Pugsley Jr.

Phone: / Zip Code: 66223

Tell us more about you: I'm a KCP&L customer, I don't have solar nor plans to install solar in the near future, but I'm very concerned about fees that make rooftop solar prohibitive.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: We need to become sustainable

Submitted by: Dr Tracey Graham

Phone: 6203432881 / Zip Code: 66801

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system., I'm a business owner concerned about future fees on businesses who produce their own energy.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: we need to do everything we can to reduce use of fossil fuels.

Submitted by: Frank Riott

Phone: 913-912-2653 / Zip Code: 66208

Tell us more about you: I'm a KCP&L customer, I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: We need to ENCOURAGE investment in alternative energy sources (solar), like other states - not add punitive fees, especially considering climate change. Please pass this bill. Thank you.

Submitted by: Alan Siegman

Phone: / Zip Code: 67218

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I don't have solar nor plans to install solar in the near future, but I'm very concerned about fees that make rooftop solar prohibitive.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: we need to give an incentive, not a penalty, for customers who want clean energy. Westar should behave like a public utility, not trying to grab 100% of the market share.

Submitted by: Alice Bean

Phone: / Zip Code: 66049

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: we need to grow distributed solar in Kansas. It is unfair for those who install solar panels to have to pay demand charges that may cost them more than their electric bill would have been without solar panels. I installed solar panels prior to 2015 and have seen that I would have to remove my panels as the demand charges would increase my electric cost to more than what I would pay without my solar panels. If people are trying to save energy, the implementation of the demand charges is more punitive than those who waste energy. The inability for solar customers to predict what their electric bill will be due to the demand charges doesn't help customer.

Submitted by: susan royd-sykes

Phone: 6208032172 / Zip Code: 66839

Tell us more about you: I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: We should all be required to look away from fossil fuels and requiring renewable energy to be the norm and available to everyone without penalty

Submitted by: Howard Blankenship

Phone: 9136385030 / Zip Code: 66062

Tell us more about you: I'm a KCP&L customer, I want to / have plans to install rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: We should encourage and incentive sustainable energy because of finite resources, to reduce the impact on the environment, and to help those who don't want to rely on others for their energy needs.

Submitted by: terry snyder

Phone: 3167060877 / Zip Code: 67037

Tell us more about you: I'm a Westar customer., I have rooftop solar or another type of distributed generation system that was installed after Oct. 28, 2015.

Share your thoughts about SB 124: Westar has always asked its users to save energy any way that we can. This I have always done. Now they want to penalize us for doing just that! I have spent a lot of money trying to do right with them and the environment. Westar should be thankful since I'm letting them sell some of my energy to others. Extra charges are just not fair!!

This note is in support of The Energy Fairness Act (SB-124, HB-2190) which will revoke the punitive charges that were added to my Westar bill due to my solar installation. My family installed an expensive solar array in the fall of 2017 to produce energy at our home in an attempt to be environmentally conscious consumers of electricity. While extremely expensive, the installation made sense because over the course of 20-25 years, the system would pay for itself while reducing carbon emissions in the state of Kansas. Unfortunately with the demand charges that Westar has been allowed to implement, my payback period has ballooned (most likely to a time frame beyond my lifetime). My solar installation no longer makes economic sense. I would appreciate you action to curtail this injustice.

Sincerely,

David Hollond
13242 170th St.
Linwood, KS 66052

Members of the Senate Utilities Committee,

Residential customers in the Westar Energy and Kansas City Power and Light service areas stand to benefit from the Kansas Energy Fairness Act, a bill that would prevent the Kansas Corporation Commission from imposing demand charges on residential solar and wind users.

As you know, this is bipartisan legislation. Republican House member Michael Houser introduced HB 2190 and Democratic Senator Tom Hawk introduced SB 124.

While other states are encouraging the adoption of residential solar and wind, Kansas policies now impose users with rate hikes ranging from \$18 to \$63 per month for generating their own power, according to the Clean Energy Business Council. After the submission of nearly 1,000 public comments from across the state in opposition to the rate change for solar and wind customers, the KCC rejected the public's outcry to this punitive policy.

That's why I'm now asking the legislature to adopt legislation that restricts utilities from charging residential solar and wind users an additional fee for generating their own power.

All the best,

Logan Heley

Subject: Solar Statement

-We invested over \$30,000 in the purchase of a solar system and the infrastructure to install the system in an effort to lower our expenses in the long term.

-We no longer run any appliances M-F between the hours of 2 and 7. We have discontinued using stock tank heaters this winter for our farm animals and have unplugged and are selling our deep freezers that we store meat in that we would normally sell to make some extra money. Not sure what else we can cut.

-We are very concerned about the summer rates. In 2002 while in the military, my husband was diagnosed with MS. The heat adversely affects his condition so, we keep our thermostat relatively low for that reason. On average, over the summer months, our electric bill is well over \$300. Not sure how much more we can pay as we are on a fixed income and are no longer operating our equipment to sell our farm products.

Vicious circle for us.

Submitted by: Barbara Ritter (blackdogsfarm12@gmail.com)

The Ks. Rural Center sent out a newsletter, which stated there is opposition to allowing solar/ect to furnish power. If the customer chooses to use solar or some other form of energy, the customer will be charged a fee.

We live in Marshall Co., so power is furnished by rural coops or other companies. Not sure if this will affect us right now, but it does affect a non-profit Ministry, we are setting up to assist Veterans transitioning from the military service.

We will be offering housing, training in small farm opportunities and hope to partner with Cloud Community college to set up a satellite campus, so Veterans who wish, can obtain an associate degree in renewable energy. This field is one of the fastest growing industries in the US. We are on the Ks.-Nebr. border. A large number of commercial buildings in Lincoln-Omaha all have solar panels installed on the roofs.

Our program is planning to set up very large greenhouses, to create a food hub industry. We plan to use different forms of renewable energy, with the assistance of Cloud Community college.

Kansas is a perfect state to pursue renewable energy jobs.
Please forward this note to people in the decision making process.

Thank you,
Rosalie Meybrunn, President
Good Shepherd Village
613 3rd. St. Summerfield, Ks. 66541

Dear Senate Utilities Committee,

I had 18 solar panels installed on my home a few years ago. I am concerned the anti solar policies from the investor owner utilities could make it to my rural electric coop. These policies have also caused me to hesitate to expand my system and purchase an electric vehicle. I am in favor of the Energy Fairness Act and hope that the utilities can find a way to work with customers who want to go solar instead of disincentivizing solar. It does not appear the benefits of a residential solar system were taken into consideration when the rate increases for solar customers were approved for Westar and KCPL.

Thanks,
Alan Staatz
25097 Dehoff Dr.
Tonganoxie, KS 66086

I was dismayed when my last electricity bill came up- more than twice what I'd ever paid since I got the solar panels. Please continue to work to roll these charges back.

Thanks!

Rev. Eldon Epp
542 S. Chautauqua
Wichita, KS 67211

Think Globally act Locally. Sounds simplistic and maybe even naive. It doesn't take into consideration the need for local businesses to maintain the profit margin they are accustomed to.

Don't regulate corporations, they will make the right decisions on their own. Again, simplistic and naive. It does not take into consideration that the health of the environment and the citizens of the State of Kansas are not in the best interest of the profit margin.

Putting a tax on a home's solar system, and on electric cars is a move by corporations to discourage the citizens of Kansas from doing the right thing, locally.

The future for cars is electric, but when a large number of electric vehicles are plugged in it will be a burden on the power company, causing them to burn more fossil fuels. Adding home solar to charge our vehicles eases that burden, it's the right thing to do. For Kansas to tax us for that is wrong, even embarrassing.

When the power company wants to charge you more just because you have a solar system, and other corporations are promoting a bill in the Senate, S343, to tax electric cars, well, when they are shooting at you you're doing the right thing!

Ed McGinnis
4112 SW 26th Street
Topeka, Kansas 66614

Dear Kansas Legislatures,

I am writing to you about the increased charges that Westar Energy and KPL has incurred on hard working citizens who have invested in solar energy for their homes. The recent increase from 3 cents to 9 cents per kW hour is unfair and unjust. We help provide energy for Westar and KPL and they buy it from us at wholesale and sell it at retail prices. They make a profit from energy we produce and then increase our access fees?? Is that right and just?? We have invested our time, money and energy getting these systems designed and installed at thousands of dollars, mine over 40k. We sell back the excess energy we produce to the large power companies so they make bigger profits and then they increase are access fees 3 fold, triple?? That is just wrong and unjust!

I am a hard working retired civil servant, 26 years Air Force, 4 active and 22 in the reserves and 26 as a Federal FERS employee. The increased fees have placed a burden on me financially. This is wrong!

Why are the people who work hard, pay taxes and try to invest for retirement have to be pay the burden for big energy to make huge profits???

Reduce this access charge and return it to the previous amount. This is totally unfair and unjust. I know their are laws that energy companies can not increase rates over a certain percentage with out justification, that should be the same for usage fees for solar homes. I have tried to do what I could as a common citizen to help produce energy and now I get back doored by big energy. Please do what is right, return the access fees to the previous lower amount.

Thank you!

Sincerely
Wendell Espeland
19955 Evans Road
Tonganoxie, Kansas 66086
913 369 0086

Starting a renewable energy department with a local company was a dream come true, unfortunately that dream has been dampened by the rates Westar has brought to the table. I can only hope that this can be reversed and help restore my livelihood and business in south east Kansas

-- Cole Morrison

*Manager Clean Energy Solutions
Clean Energy Solutions*

CDL Electric Co., Inc.

1308 N. Walnut | Pittsburg, KS 66762

Office +620-231-6420

Fax +620-231-6421

I am writing to express my support for SB 124 and HB 2190. As a Solar Industry Professional, I can attest firsthand how the residential market in Kansas has been negatively impacted, stunting growth and preventing companies from hiring capable workers who wish to build a more renewable future in Kansas. I have fielded many calls from concerned and disappointed customers who have had solar installed, only to have the benefits of self-generation lost to high demand charges. Solar companies in Kansas are now turning their focus to Missouri, where growth continues. If these bills are not passed to rectify the damage done by the KCC to the distributed generation market, students currently studying solar technology at Cloud and Johnson County Community Colleges in Kansas will find their dream solar jobs in other states, taking with them their tax dollars. We must support these bills to ensure that Kansas can create their own clean energy future, and make their own choice as to where their electricity comes from. Thank you.

- Michael Lee
Lawrence, KS

Dear Committee,

We live in St. Marys, however, we are part of Shawnee County. Our electricity bills are astronomically high. We pay \$260 - \$274 per month! And that's on the "budget" because they tell us it would be worst if we were not on a budget. That's \$3,200+ per year on electricity alone! Nothing has helped! We have insulated our home, including double walls, new windows, etc. and spent thousands of dollars, and nothing seems to "save" energy and bring our monthly bills down. When we first moved into this house 20 years ago, our bill was \$60.

We started looking to solar, but were quickly shut down because this would apparently only increase our monthly bill. I don't pretend to understand why that is, but it sure is one of the dumbest things I've ever heard of, especially in this day in age when everyone wants to go "green" and "save the planet" and be "energy efficient" and all those fake slogans they come up with. When it comes down to solar energy, it should be a no brainer! These corporations are not working for the little people! They are concerned about themselves. I will not deny they brought wires into our home which belong to them and they deserve fair compensation, but to increase our bill rather than to support using nature's resources to lighten up our financial situation is insane.

I thank you for allowing me a platform to relate our concerns.

Mr. & Mrs. Heriberto Unzueta