




A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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HB 2531 – County Commission Approval of Agricultural Pipelines

Written only neutral with concerns

**Kansas House Committee on Agriculture
Feb. 14, 2022**

**Presented by Leslie Kaufman
V.P. Government Relations & Legal Counsel
Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc.**

Chairman Rahjes, Vice Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Carlin and members of the House Committee on Agriculture, I am Leslie Kaufman. I serve as Vice President of Government Relations & Legal Counsel for Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (KEC). Thank you for the opportunity to submit written comments on HB 2531 on behalf of Kansas' electric cooperatives.

Electric cooperative service territory covers nearly 80% of the landmass in Kansas. Our members operate over 80,000 miles of electric distribution lines, mostly above but a notable amount underground, and more than 2,500 miles of transmission lines. Additionally, a multitude of other facilities and equipment, together with these lines, serve as critical infrastructure for providing co-op consumer-members with reliable, affordable electric utility service.

Our members are required to participate in the state's single notification center and take that responsibility seriously. We want to make sure our workers and infrastructure are protected, whether it is our workers or others doing the excavation. We believe anyone installing line in a public right of way should install properly constructed lines, that are locatable, and that the entity owning or operating the lines should be required to participate in the notification center.

We are not sure the language of HB 2531, as originally introduced, requires agricultural producers installing certain types of lines to participate in the state's single notification center or to install lines that are locatable. The proponents of the bill before you are working with us, discussing possible ways to address our concerns. We appreciate these conversations and will work in good faith to try and develop a workable solution.

If you have any questions about our testimony, please feel free to contact us.

Thank you.