

**Testimony of Kansans for Lower Electric Rates and
Kansas Industrial Consumers Group
*Hearing continuation on SB 245 --
Updated to Neutral, pending agreement*
Before the Senate Committee on Financial Institutions & Insurance
March 17, 2021**

On February 18 we opposed Senate Bill 245 because it did not provide clear ratepayer benefits. We had other areas of concern, but ratepayer benefits was and is the primary issue.

We are grateful for the time given to KIC & KLER, and other stakeholders, to work with the proponents of the bill. We have taken advantage of that time and have had a number of productive meetings and dialogues with Evergy, the KCC and CURB. In respect of those ongoing discussions, we have adjusted our position to “neutral”.

We believe we will reach an agreement with Evergy on bill language that provides clear ratepayer benefits, allowing KIC & KLER to cautiously and conservatively support SB 245.

Until that agreement is secured, we urge this and other committees to proceed exceedingly cautiously before approving legislation that restructures part of the electric industry and commits customers to charges on their bills for up to 30 years.

Until we see updated bill language we take no position on gas utilities being included in a securitization bill. Conceptually we see no issues.

We believe securitization can prove to be a beneficial tool for retiring underutilized generation assets, investing in new technologies, and saving ratepayers money. However, careful attention must be paid to ensure legislation that enables this valuable tool achieves its desired outcomes.

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The Kansas Industrial Consumers Group is a coalition of large-volume energy users in Kansas. The members collectively represent billions of dollars of investment in the State and employ thousands of Kansans. Kansans for Lower Electric Rates is an advocacy project of KIC with members of all sizes. We believe high energy costs are negatively impacting residential consumers, schools, hospitals, and large and small businesses.