

Written Testimony of the Leawood Chamber of Commerce Stephanie Meyer, President & CEO, Leawood Chamber

For the House Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Telecommunications February 6, 2024

Chairman Delperdang and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to address House Bill 2527. As an economic development organization and community located along our state line, we are writing in support of this measure, as it would provide an outlet to meet the competitive energy advantage currently realized by our neighbors in Missouri.

Leawood, and all of Johnson County and surrounding areas, are fortunate to have a number of exceptional amenities, including best-in-class schools, a well-educated workforce, solid infrastructure, and a wonderful quality of life, making it an attractive place to start or relocate a business. We must continue to ensure that we have the adequate energy supply needed for that growth, most especially with the rapid rise of data centers located within the region.

HB 2527 works to address this demand and provide a future remedy, while leveling the playing field with our neighboring state.

We realize there are many complex components to this bill, and as the committee works through them, we would encourage you to consider the future growth of our community, county, and region – and the energy required for such growth – and give favorable consideration to HB 2527.

13451 Briar Street, Suite 201 Leawood, Kansas 66209 (913) 498-1514 leawoodchamber.org