



March 18, 2024

Written Testimony in Support of HB 2527
Senate Utilities Committee
Ann Smith-Tate, President & CEO, Shawnee Chamber of Commerce
Executive Director, Shawnee Economic Development Council

Chairman Fagg and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for providing me with this opportunity to share my professional opinion on HB 2527. As the President & CEO of the Shawnee Chamber of Commerce and as the Executive Director of the Shawnee Economic Development Council, I would like to express my support for HB 2527.

As Kansas continues to set records as it relates to new economic development projects resulting in greater investment in our state and positive outcomes for its citizens it is even more crucial than ever to continue to invest in all statewide infrastructure, most importantly our power grid. The policies set forth in HB 2527 will allow for necessary changes to allow for an increase in power generation to meet the ever-growing needs of today's manufacturers.

Additionally, this bill will allow for the State of Kansas to be more competitive with other states, including Missouri where we continue to lose projects based solely on the fact of more aggressive economic incentives. The simple fact of economic development is in today's global economy we are competing consistently with regions and states that are continually upping their commitment to attract companies with this type of qualifying investment. If the State of Kansas does not keep pace and keep competitive, we are simply not going to be at the table when the crucial deals are put together and major expansions decided.

I encourage and ask for your support in moving this legislation forward so that we will be able to continue to support our existing businesses and attract new businesses that will favorably impact our state for years to come and help us all to build a stronger and sounder Kansas economy for us all.