



NAACP KANSAS STATE CONFERENCE

Founded 1943

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February 18, 2021

Proponent Testimony on

HB 2321

On behalf of the members of the Kansas State NAACP, specifically including residents impacted by the installation of the urban electric transmission lines in northeast Wichita, we would like to acknowledge and thank Representative Gail Finney for working with Representative Ellis to sponsor House Bill 2321.

Many in the community of NE Wichita and those who grew up in the area were witnesses to the responsive diligence displayed by Representative Finney in working with Evergy on behalf of the community to come to a resolution that would provide transparency and communication with the residents and the City of Wichita regarding the preparation of or construction of any future urban electric transmission "lines".

The Kansas State NAACP supports Bill 2321 and recognizes this is a positive initial step taken to come to a reasonable position that provides for increased communication and a willingness to be inclusive in future planning; however, it is just as important to say that we would be remiss if we did not state that such effort on behalf Evergy should be seen as the beginning and not the conclusion of actions that need to be taken to respectfully address and regain the trust of the citizens of the City of Wichita. The initial disingenuous installation of the "lines" in Wichita resulted in real life adverse experiences by residents that permeated across the State of Kansas.

With that being said, the Kansas State NAACP supports the passage of House Bill 2321 and looks forward to the enhanced relationship building in the community by Evergy moving forward and as such this organization will continue to monitor this matter carefully.

The Kansas State NAACP represents over 2000 members statewide with 19 branches and is located within Region 4 of the NAACP that includes Kansas, Missouri, Colorado, Minnesota, Iowa, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Wyoming, and South Dakota

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Glenda Overstreet Vaughn

Political Action Chair

Kansas State NAACP