

To: House Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications Committee, Representative Joe Seiwert, Chairperson

From: John Donley, Kansas Farm Bureau

Date: February 23, 2021

Re: HB 2381 – Establishing the State Energy Plan Task Force

Chairman Seiwert and members of the committee, I appreciate the opportunity to present written testimony on behalf of the Kansas Farm Bureau (KFB) in support of HB 2381. KFB is the state's largest general farm organization representing more than 30,000 farm and ranch families through our 105 county Farm Bureau Associations.

KFB supports HB 2381 and the planning of energy needs and production for Kansas. KFB appreciates and is thankful to the sponsors of HB 2381 for including our organization as a member of the state energy task force created by the bill.

Energy production, use, and distribution affect our members every day. KFB has a long history of supporting efforts to strength rural communities through access to reliable energy for homes and farming operations; employment opportunities within the energy sector; and planned compensated use of private property for energy production and transmission. Multiple energy sources in the state of Kansas, including biofuels, oil and gas, wind, and solar, have a major impact on rural lives and the rural economy.

In particular, KFB has been an active participant in development of statewide policy involving:

- property taxes, landowner compensation, and siting of wind farms,
- use and protection of private property for energy (oil, gas, wind, solar) production and transmission and distribution systems,
- encouragement of member support and participation in rural electric cooperatives,
- policies that enhance development of biofuels production, and
- member payment of severance taxes on oil and gas royalties.

We welcome the opportunity to work with the new task force to ensure that all Kansans have reliable affordable sources of energy. We welcome to participate as consumers and producers of energy. Again, thank you for including us in this important discussion. We encourage your support for HB 2381.