

February 23, 2021

Proponent Testimony HB 2381

Climate + Energy Project on behalf of the Clean Energy Business Council

Good afternoon Chairman Siewert, ranking member Kuether, and committee members. Thank you for allowing me to present proponent testimony on HB 2381. The Climate + Energy Project has been a strong advocate for renewable energy and energy efficiency in Kansas since 2007. In 2016 we created the Clean Energy Business Council which represents more than 20 clean energy businesses and organizations across the state.

In more than 40 states, state energy plans have been created to capitalize on energy as a key resource and area of strategic importance to these states' economies and economic development efforts. If passed, HB 2381 will begin to address our state's need for affordable, reliable, clean and abundant energy which is critical to the health and welfare of Kansas citizens.

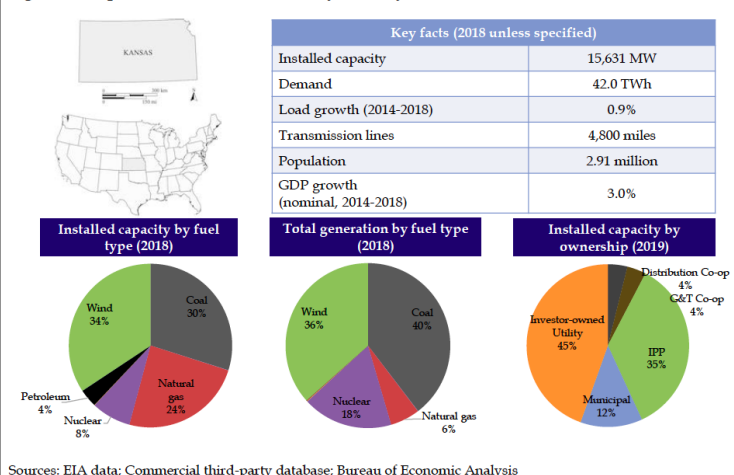
Since 2018, the Clean Energy Business Council (CEBC), a project of the Climate + Energy Project, has advocated for a State Energy Plan (SEP). As technology continues to disrupt the current energy system it is clear Kansas needs a comprehensive approach to address the transforming energy environment. Kansas needs an energy plan that establishes a clear vision, guiding principles, realistic objectives and actionable strategies that can guide the state's energy decision-making over the next ten years and beyond.

With support from environmental, clean energy, conservation, agriculture, and faith partners, along with the Citizens Utility Ratepayer Board, CEBC has connected with national experts, the Home Performance Coalition (HPC), Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA) and the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) to create a series of recommendations and issues to consider as Kansas moves forward with a state energy plan. We will be pleased to share these recommendations as a member of the taskforce created by HB 2381.

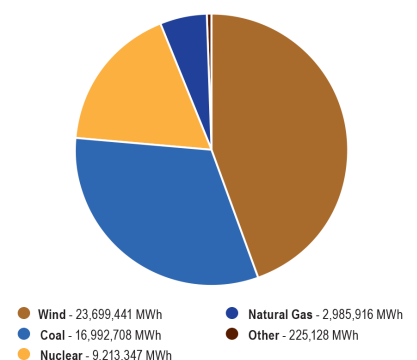
Last week's unprecedented cold and record-breaking demand for electricity along with the problems with generation make it clear that a state energy plan is more important than ever. We are encouraged by this committee's willingness to consider this bill.

The rapidly changing energy sector is, and will continue to be, a challenge for policymakers if we don't plan for its future now. In Kansas, our electric generation includes over 15.6 GW of installed capacity as of the end of 2018, with wind, coal and gas, as the dominant generation fuels and technologies. As of 2018, coal-fired generation capacity comprised 30% and gas-fired generation was 24%. Wind energy made up 34%, more than

Figure 8. Snapshot of the Kansas electricity industry



Kansas Electric Generation Sources by Total Megawatt hours



Source: State Historical Tables (Released September 2020)

ten percent higher than the global average for renewable energy. In 2019 wind generated more electricity in Kansas than any other fuel source.

In [a study commissioned by the legislature](#), London Economics Inc. included the establishment of a state energy plan as one of the top priorities the state should embark on to help achieve regionally competitive electricity rates over time.

One change we would encourage to the bill is to expedite the taskforce's deadline to July 1, 2022.