



City of Burlingame, 101 E. Santa Fe, Burlingame, KS 66413

To: House Financial Institutions and Rural Development
From: Amanda Kohlman, Burlingame City Council
Date: March 3, 2021
RE: Testimony in Support of City Utility Low-Interest Program

On behalf of the Burlingame, Kansas City Council Members, Mayor, and residents I am writing to implore you to pass the proposed City Utility Low-Interest Loan Program legislation.

The City of Burlingame is a municipality that provides utilities to fewer than 1,000 homes and businesses. Along with many Kansas communities we contract with KMEA/KMGA to provide what is traditionally cost effective energy to our residents. Like other communities we are facing a February gas bill that will devastate our city and community.

If KMGA is not able to litigate a lower cost, the City of Burlingame is set to receive a bill of \$970,000. To put this into perspective, last year we paid a total of \$171,885 for gas. The month of February's gas cost is 564% more than what we paid for all of our gas consumption in 2020. A small community such as ours does not have the funds available to absorb a nearly one million dollar unexpected bill. Additionally, per the United States Census Bureau, the average median income in our community is \$24,899 a year for an individual and \$39,000 for a family, which is below the average for the state of Kansas. Not only is it impossible for our city to pay this unusual and astronomical bill at once, but also impossible for a community with an average income of \$24,000 a year to pass on a bill of this magnitude directly to our residents. Allowing communities in this situation to be able to borrow from the State Ideal Funds to pay this bill will save cities across Kansas. This loan would allow us to gradually bill our energy consumers without causing a detrimental financial burden.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions or would like us to provide more information.

Sincerely,

Amanda Kohlman
Burlingame, KS City Council
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