

**Proponent Written-Only Testimony
SB 220 – Increasing Penalties for Battery Against a Utility Worker**

**Senate Committee on Judiciary
Feb. 19, 2021**

**Presented by
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Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc.**

**On Behalf of
Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (KEC)
Energry
Kansas Municipal Utilities
Black Hills Energy
Kansas Gas Service
Kansas Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.
Sunflower Electric Power Corp.
ITC Great Plains
Atmos Energy**

Chair Warren, Vice Chair Wilborn, Ranking Members Haley and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, thank you for the opportunity to share our support for SB 220. As you know, the measure increases penalties for battery against a utility worker.

The utility interests noted above care deeply about employee safety. Utility workers often work in the worst of weather situations to respond to service calls. On top of that, they can sometimes encounter hostile individuals when carrying out their duties.

We hope that increasing penalties for causing harm to utility workers would serve as a deterrent to further acts of aggression against our employees. This bill recognizes the contributions utility workers make daily to provide vital services to their communities. As such, we support SB 220 and thank you for considering this measure.

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