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HCR 5023 – Supporting investigation into extraordinary price increases associated with February 2021 extreme cold.

Written only proponent

**Senate Utilities Committee
March 8, 2022**

**Presented by Leslie Kaufman
V.P. Government Relations & Legal Counsel
Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc.**

Chairman Thompson, Vice Chairman Petersen, Ranking Member Francisco, and members of the Senate Committee on Utilities, I am Leslie Kaufman. I serve as Vice President of Government Relations & Legal Counsel for Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (KEC). Thank you for the opportunity to submit written comments in support of HCR 5023 on behalf of Kansas electric cooperatives.

Electric cooperative service territory covers nearly 80% of the landmass in Kansas. Distribution cooperatives, on the retail level, and generation and transmission cooperatives on the wholesale level, provide their members with electricity based on the cost of service.

Much of the power generated to serve Kansas customers, including cooperative customers, relies on natural gas as a fuel source. Electric cooperatives, as natural gas purchasers or purchasers of electricity generated by natural gas, were affected by the high gas prices associated with winter storm Uri. Those cost had to be passed on to member-consumers. Cooperatives have worked with consumers and developed workable payment options and ways to spread payment over time. Still, it was a significant cost event.

We support the various examinations at state, regional and federal levels that are focusing on a variety of aspects, including the cost implications of winter storm Uri. This would include the Kansas Attorney General's and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's investigations. As such, we support HCR 5023 and encourage your favorable action on this resolution.

If you have any questions about our testimony, please feel free to contact us.

Thank you.