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House Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications Committee
Testimony in Support of House Bill 2228
Presented by Amanda Stamm, Vice President of Energy Operations

Friday, February 3, 2023

Members of the House Committee, my name is Amanda Stamm and I'm Vice President of Energy Operations for Cromwell Environmental Inc., DBA Cromwell Solar in Lawrence, Kansas. I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2228, which would create a uniform net-metering policy for utilities in the State of Kansas regardless of their being investor-owned, cooperatives or municipal territories. This is important as it provides security for businesses and homeowners installing solar, limiting their risk of investing in self-generation technologies such as solar and batteries that provide them with stability and resiliency.

To create an invariable policy for the State would aid those in rural areas where their net-metering policies still charge penalizing fees for solar customers, making it unfeasible for them to choose self-reliant options. It would give every Kansan the equal opportunity to access and afford distributed generation systems. We have, unfortunately, had many Kansas residents and businesses desire to produce their own energy, lower their utility rates and invest in stability of their power source who could not, either due to penalizing fees for solar customers or who's utilities have no net-metering policy at all.

The State of Kansas and Utilities alike have goals of increasing solar production, limiting our dependency on fossil fuels and diversifying our source of power generation, however, our current net-metering policies are some of the more restrictive in the country and are counterproductive to this overall goal. With most utilities nearing their current net-metering cap, it will become increasingly more difficult to achieve our energy goals and give our residents the consumer choice they deserve. The net-metering cap along with system size limitations and expirations on policies should be addressed to allow us to continue to stride towards our goals and give all Kansans, residents and businesses, an opportunity for self-generating solutions and immediate rate relief.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in support of House Bill 2228 as we do believe it will be an asset to our State's overall success and independency. I'm happy to answer any questions or provide further examples of how our current structure has negatively impacted Kansans and how adopting House Bill 2228 would be beneficial to our economics and our people. Thank you for your time and consideration.