

## Support of Kansas HB 2228

Dear House Energy, Utilities, and Telecommunications Committee Chair and Members,

We are writing in support of HB 2228 on net-metering. Our family purchased a solar panel system in August of 2017 to enhance our home infrastructure powering the property and support an electric car without relying on an electrical grid powered mostly by fossil fuels.

The solar panel system included a digital electrical meter capable of running backward when our system produced more energy than we used, then ran forward when use exceeded production. The net kilowatt hours were calculated each month (or billing cycle), and after paying the electric service charge and other associated fees, we either gave the excess power to the electric utility (which was sold to other customers) or we paid our bill and started again the next month.

Today, Kansas residential electricity producers are not compensated for the excess commodity produced on rooftops or in backyards. This would be similar to me owning a flower shop where some of my customers purchase arrangements from me, but also grow their own flowers. It is a great business model to require customers to purchase my stock, but also require them to give me their excess stock which I can then sell to other customers. This is especially great if I am the only florist available. Great for the business, but not for the customer. Kansas's policy towards net metering is ready for a change. In our opinion, HB 2228 aims to take steps in a direction that will still benefit the electric utilities and cooperatives, but also benefit the residential electricity producers.

During six months of 2022, our household used more power than our panels produced. Our panels generated an excess during the remaining six months. We ended up purchasing 972 kilowatt hours for \$128 cumulatively from those six months of deficit, not counting the electrical service charge. This fee is understandable as we purchased a commodity from the utility provider. However, for the entire 12 months of 2022 year we ended up producing 591 more kilowatt hours than we used. The electric utility was able to sell 591 kilowatt hours they did not purchase or generate. According to our electric utility company, FreeState Electric Coop's website, <https://freestate.coop/TOU> customers are charged "17.89 cents per kWh from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8.45 cents per kWh all other hours, including major holidays." Even at the lower rate of 8.45 cents/kWh, our electric utility sold our excess 591 kWhs for just under \$50 – not big money, but it is still money we could have used in the local economy for fuel, groceries, or a movie night.

We purchased solar panels so we could enjoy more energy autonomy and be selective about our energy usage. We understand that energy was used to produce, transport, and install our solar system, and much of that was likely fossil fuels. Since 2017, our system continues to convert the Sun's energy into electricity for our home, and that is a good feeling. We support HB 2228 to be fairly compensated for the excess electricity we produce. We want the power, but we also want the profit our panels produce.

Thank you for your time.

Tobias Wood and Jennifer Thayer-Wood  
Auburn, Kansas