



KANSAS RURAL CENTER

FOR THE HEALTH OF THE LAND AND ITS PEOPLE

KANSAS RURAL CENTER

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Proponent

Written Testimony in Support of HB 2227 and HB 2228
House Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications

Dear Chairman Delperdang and Members of the House Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications Committee:

I appreciate the opportunity to provide written testimony as a proponent of both HB 2227 and 2228. I'm the Executive Director of the Kansas Rural Center, which has been working to build an economically viable, ecologically sound and socially just farming and food system for Kansans for over 40 years. One of the longstanding goals of the Kansas Rural Center in that mission has been to back renewable energy options for Kansans. HB 2227 and HB 2228 both provide support to strengthen Kansas' communities' abilities to utilize renewable energy and we encourage you to pass these bills.

We support HB 2227 because it allows more organizations to enter into power purchase agreements which will provide additional choice in the marketplace for energy consumers. This will promote additional growth in the power generation options available to Kansans and importantly, encourage the growth of renewable energy production that can mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. This legislation enables businesses to pursue energy negotiations with developers outside of the monopoly utility and choose the option that provides the best rate structure for their businesses.

We also support HB 2228 as the changes it proposes for net metering will ensure Kansans across the state have access to uniform policies in how net metering is applied. This will provide stability for businesses, farms and families who choose to install solar power generation on their properties. This stability is critical for those choosing to invest in solar generation or battery storage technologies. We believe the net result will be a stronger distributed generation system that will provide businesses, farms and homeowners the ability to better manage their energy costs and support the use of solar power as a key tool for reducing emissions. This change is sensible and will put Kansans on an equal footing with residents of surrounding states in terms of net metering access.

At the Kansas Rural Center we have long understood the value of expanding renewable energy options across the state of Kansas and support both HB 2227 and HB2228 as clear advances in that effort for Kansans. We ask the committee to support both of these bills and pass them to the House floor.

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