



6220 SW 29th Street, Ste 300 | Topeka, KS 66614-5028
1-866-448-3619 | Fax: 785-232-1465 | TTY: 1-877-434-7598
aarp.org/ks | ksaarp@aarp.org | twitter: @aarps
facebook.com/AARPKS

February 9, 2023

Re: HB 2156- Establish rates that benefit low-income residential customers
House Committee on Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications
Pre-Approved Virtual
Support

From: Maxine Goucher, AAPP Kansas Volunteer
785-221-2827, AARP Kansas

Chairman Leo [Delperdang](#)

Good afternoon Chairman Delperdang and committee members. My name is Maxine Goucher and I am an AARP Kansas Executive Council Volunteer.

We are a non-profit, non-partisan organization that works across Kansas to strengthen communities and advocate for issues that matter most to families such as healthcare, employment and income security, retirement planning, reliable and affordable utilities, and protection from financial abuse.

AARP has more than 278,000 members in Kansas. Many of our members have low or fixed incomes. Others live on their Social Security alone. The dramatic escalation in utility rates that we are seeing in Kansas and across the entire nation poses a special concern for households with residents over age 50. Consumers over age 50 tend to devote a higher percentage of their total spending towards energy costs than other age groups and they often have special safety concerns with regard to their continued access to utility services. All consumers must be able to rely on the availability of safe, affordable, and high-quality utility services which are crucial to health, safety and personal welfare

AARP supports low income energy assistance programs. Regulators and lawmakers should ensure that consumers with low incomes can afford their utilities.

This bill allows the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) to permit a low-income rate even if it raises rates for others. (Current law apparently bars such.)



Therefore, we support HB 2156 that will establish rates that benefit low-income residential customers.

Respectfully,
AARP Kansas
