



Atmos Energy Corp.
25090 W 110th Terrace
Olathe, KS 66061

February 7, 2023

Chairman Leo Delperdang
Kansas House of Representatives
Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications Committee

Chairman Delperdang,

Atmos Energy appreciates the role the Kansas Corporation Commission plays in working with utilities to set rates that are consistent with the public interest. In fulfilling its duties, the Commission is charged with deciding whether any rate proposal by a utility would result in unreasonable, unfair, unjust, unjustly discriminatory, or unduly preferential rates on a case-by-case basis. The Commission has the knowledge, expertise, and authority to make these decisions on a case-by-case basis and should be given the opportunity to consider creative ways to address the needs of Kansans facing the challenges of limited income through the regulatory process. Atmos Energy believes House Bill 2156 would allow the Commission to consider proposals by utilities to present additional solutions to serve the public interest through assisting Kansans who are most in need of support in a manner that is not unduly discriminatory. For this reason, we are in support of the bill.

In this way, House Bill 2156 will allow for additional tools so that all Kansans will have access to safe, reliable, and affordable utility service to potentially enhance what utilities already are doing to address this need. Kansas utilities currently provide support to low-income customers through various programs. Income-eligible utility customers receive support through LIEAP funding through the Department of Children and Families. Many Atmos Energy customers in Kansas apply for LIEAP assistance, and in 2022 \$1,460,126 was paid on Atmos Energy bills through this program. Atmos Energy also works to provide additional billing assistance through our Sharing the Warmth program which in 2022 provided \$140,893 in financial assistance to Kansas customers. We continue to work with community partners in our service area to help our neighbors in need through additional energy assistance donations. Ahead of the 2022/2023 heating season, we provided \$143,000 to these partners in anticipation of the economic strain placed on Kansas households.

We anticipate the committee will see the merit in this additional option to support disproportionately impacted Kansas utility customers, while we will continue working to connect our customers with billing assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bart Armstrong". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Bart Armstrong
President, Colorado-Kansas Division

Atmos Energy Corporation
25090 W 110th TER, Olathe KS, 66061
Bart.armstrong@atmosenergy.com