



**Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce**  
**Written Testimony to Kansas Senate Utilities Committee**  
**In Opposition to SB 153**  
**Repeal of State Renewable Energy Portfolio Standards**

Chairman Olson and Honorable Members of the Committee,

The Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce has over 2,400 members, 40 percent of which are businesses in Kansas. The KC Chamber and its members, several of whom are the most successful and innovative energy engineering firms in the world, have long been supporters of the development and responsible use of renewable energy including renewable portfolio standards.

The KC Chamber supported the adoption of the state's current renewable energy standards and believes this is good public policy balancing public health and environmental concerns with important business considerations. In fact, the KC Chamber believes renewable energy has been a valuable economic development and job creation tool for our state as evidenced by a recent study conducted by Polsinelli law firm showing more than 13,000 jobs have been created in Kansas due to expansion of the wind energy sector and construction of wind farms. Nearly three-quarters of these renewable energy jobs in Kansas are permanent and tied to the operation of wind farms and support industries.

The Kansas Energy Information Network reports over \$8 billion in private capital has been invested in the state due to a thriving wind market and policy encouraging renewables. The economic benefits to Kansas landowners over the 20-year life of existing wind projects exceeds \$273 million and is helping keep farmers/ranchers on their land and keep rural communities economically viable. In the bi-state metropolitan area, favorable renewable energy policies have helped to attract Sungevity, a solar energy firm that plans to bring nearly 600 jobs to the metro area in the next five years.

The KC Chamber believes the current renewable energy standards adopted in 2009 are indeed working, creating jobs and landowner revenue, saving consumers money, and helping the state achieve the balance between public health and business that the KC Chamber believes is vital for economic growth in our region and state. We urge the committee and the Kansas Legislature to support job creation through renewables and oppose legislation which would delay, and/or repeal the Kansas Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS). Thank you for your consideration.

*Cathy K. Bennett*  
*Vice President, Public Policy and Programs*  
*Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce*  
*30 W. Pershing Re, KC, MO 64108*  
[bennett@kcchamber.com](mailto:bennett@kcchamber.com)  
816-374-5412  
913-302-6434