



**To: Chair, Senator Olson
Members of the Senate Committee on Utilities**

**From: Sarah Hill-Nelson
Owner/Operator
The Bowersock Mills & Power Company, Expanded Kansas River Hydropower Project**

RE: Senate Bill 412

February 14th, 2016

As an Owner/Operator of The Bowersock Mills & Power Company's Expanded Kansas River Hydropower Project on the Bowersock Dam in Lawrence, I am writing in support of the Johnson County WaterOne effort to install hydroelectric generation at the WaterOne weir on the Kansas River. The Bowersock Mills & Power Company supports the passage of Senate Bill 412 which would modify an easement previously granted to the utility for the installation of water diversion structures on the Kansas River.

The Owners and Operators of the Bowersock Project strongly support the development of clean, renewable, domestic energy resources within Kansas, and in particular hydropower. The development of a hydroelectric generating facility benefits the regional economy, providing jobs through the creation and construction of the facility as well through the life of the project, which is often hundreds of years. The longevity of a hydroelectric generating station and the lack of fuel costs make hydroelectricity one of the cheapest forms of energy we have the technology to produce today, benefiting consumers over time with low-cost energy. Hydroelectric energy is not only inexpensive over time, but it is reliable and consistent, serving as baseload and adding stability to the grid. Its distributed location and flexible generation help meet peak demands and maintain system voltage levels.

The Kansas River has historically supported hydropower, as the Bowersock facility has been generating energy (first mechanical and then hydroelectric) from the Kansas River since 1874. The WaterOne facility would replicate the process just miles downstream from the Bowersock project, which has been operating effectively and efficiently for over 100 years.

The addition of the WaterOne facility is an economic and environmental win for Kansas. Hydroelectric energy is non-polluting, with no impacts to air quality. The new facility would have very little (if any) additional environmental impact on the Kansas River. The WaterOne weir is already in place, and to make additional beneficial use of the weir by creating clean, renewable energy makes good sense. A low-head, run-of-river facility such as that proposed by WaterOne has no adverse impacts to either water quality or quantity, as a hydroelectric facility simply borrows the weight of the water to drive the generators before passing it downstream, maintaining flow and quantity for consumers and wildlife.

We respectfully request the Committee's support of Senate Bill 412, as it will allow for the establishment of an additional clean, reliable, renewable, inexpensive supply of domestic Kansas energy.

**Sarah Hill-Nelson
Owner/Operator
The Bowersock Mills & Power Company**