



March 1, 2005

Senator Emler, Chair
House Utilities Committee
HB 2084

Good morning Chairman Emler and members of the Senate Utilities Committee. I appreciate the chance to appear today and to make a brief statement on House Bill 2084 as amended by the House of Committee of the Whole.

My name is David Wilson and I am an Executive Council Member of AARP Kansas, which represents the views of our more than 350,000 members in the state of Kansas.

First of all we recognize that the bill's subject is a worthy one -- energy efficiency and conservation should be practiced by all. AARP Kansas supports these practices. We also continue to support the Kansas Cold Weather Rule as an important protection to many older Kansans in our state

The Kansas Corporation established the Cold Weather Rule in 1983 to insure that Kansans have residential electric and gas services they need during the winter. The rule has served the state of Kansas well for approximately 20 years.

AARP maintains that any changes to the Cold Weather Rule could have significant implications for residential consumers in Kansas. The ability to have heat during the winter is an absolute necessity for older and low income consumers.

We applaud the removal of language by the House of Representatives that would have made changes to the Cold Weather Rule that could have jeopardized the health and safety of many low income Kansans.

In conclusion, we respectfully request that this committee continue its practice to protect human health and safety and reject any proposed amendments to HB 8024 as amended by the House Committee of the Whole that would change the current Cold Weather Rule. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Respectfully
David Wilson

