



HOUSE BILL NO. 2623 TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE ENERGY&ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE
JANET DOLL, MAYOR

CITY OF GARDEN CITY, KANSAS

FEBRUARY 8, 2016

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Chairman Hedke and Members of the House Energy & Environment Committee

Thank you for allowing me to provide written testimony on behalf of the City of Garden City regarding House Bill No. 2623.

The Garden City Commissioners adopted its 2015 / 2016 Strategic Objective Plan that outlined several goals for enhancing the livability and growth to the community. One such goal is to "Achieve independence for Electric Utility in order to maximize benefit to City existing and prospective customers".

As a Kansas Municipality, Garden City, a City of the First Class, and a member of the Kansas Municipal Energy Agency, paid Wheatland Electric Cooperative, a cooperative of the Sunflower Electric Power Corporation (SEPC) \$831,517 in 2015 for local access through the Morris Substation to the Southwest Power Pool's (SPP, Regional Transmission Operator) 115 KV transmission system.

In an attempt to access the SPP transmission system and to save annually the \$831,000 that Garden City customers pay, the City offered to purchase the Morris Substation to gain such access. However, the request was denied. Therefore, under current Kansas law, Garden City could choose to build, own and operate a 115KV transmission line to connect to the SPP transmission system and reduce its overall power delivery costs.

However, HB No. 2623 would eliminate Garden City's option to build its own transmission line at its cost and be forced to allow the incumbent (SEPC) to build the transmission line without price competition. Garden City residents would be forced to bear a presumably higher expense.

We are dedicated to keeping our electric rates as affordable as possible for our customers. This is one reason Garden City has experienced recent community growth. Passage of House Bill No. 2623 ensures higher rates for our customers by removing options for our community to secure and provide power.

We join the other Kansas municipal utilities and municipal electric joint action agencies in opposing House Bill No. 2623. We respectfully ask that you do the same.