



Testimony Provided to the

House Energy & Environment Committee

February 12, 2016

Janis Krievins, Electrical Engineer

In Opposition to H. B. 2623

Members of the House Energy and Environment Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to H.B. 2623. The City of Gardner, Kansas (Gardner) operates a municipal electric utility serving our 7,800 customers through a 12,470 Volt distribution grid and a 161,000 Volt transmission grid. Gardner owns and operates two gas turbines, but purchases the majority of its power requirements from outside sources and this power is delivered to Gardner through the Kansas City Power & Light system.

Gardner opposes this legislation as it could restrict our right to service our customers and ratepayers with reasonable and needed improvements to build and service our transmission systems. Gardner currently owns and operates three 161,000 Volt substations and four miles of 161,000 Volt transmission lines. We are interconnected at three separate locations with Kansas City Power & Light Company. Gardner is currently considering the construction of a fourth 161,000 Volt substation and associated transmission lines in order to improve the reliability of our system and service to our customers. This proposed legislation, if passed as written, could prohibit the City from completing these projects. In addition, the City has access to tax-exempt financing which would provide lower project costs and less pressure on rates for our customers.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to legislation that would be detrimental to the City of Gardner.