

**Written Testimony of Mark Schreiber, Westar Energy
On SB 107
Before the Senate Commerce Committee
February 17, 2015**

Chairwoman Lynn and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit brief testimony on SB 107. The bill would make current public bidding processes less transparent for certain projects. Thus, Westar Energy opposes this bill. This legislation would allow public entities, such as counties and school districts, to authorize no-bid contracts for energy efficiency or energy producing projects, eliminating the value which results in multiple contractors bidding on projects and allowing public officials the opportunity to evaluate various options.

Enabling these entities the ability to seek options for using their energy more wisely is a goal we support. These options, along with information about the products and guarantees, could be compared and evaluated through a transparent, competitive process. Singling out a particular service or project for exemption from the competitive bid process does not appear to be good public policy. Competitive bids should be retained where required so public funds are expended in an open process.