

Before the SENATE UTILITIES Committee  
Presented by Zack Pistora, Kansas Sierra Club  
Opposition to SB 318  
January 21, 2016



Chairman Olson and Honorable Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition of SB 318; which would abolish the Kansas Electric Transmission Authority (KETA).

**KETA has been successful in its mission and has been productive for Kansas.**

Since its creation in 2005, the Kansas Electric Transmission Authority has been responsible for planning and overseeing reliable operation of the electrical transmission system and expanding the Kansas economy through facilitating improvements in the state's electric transmission infrastructure for the delivery and use of Kansas energy. Prior to 2005, there had been no significant new construction of high-voltage transmission lines in the state for 22 years. But since then, over 400 miles of 345kV transmission line has been completed. In the same timeframe, over 3000 MW of wind energy in our state has come online, which would not have happened without the enhanced transmission and electrical infrastructure capability that KETA is tasked with. The investment in in-state transmission has allowed investment in the billions of dollars and has created thousands of jobs in Kansas.

**KETA is a key player in discussion grid reliability and transmission matters; and holds Kansas's best interests in the Southwest Power Pool.**

KETA helps represent our state's stake in the Southwest Power Pool, and without KETA, we lose our state's leading voice for Kansans in discussion of new energy concerns and transmission projects. Through its leadership, KETA has deliberated on several issues with the Southwest Power Pool (SPP), including SPP's new integrated marketplace, FERC Order 1000, and the Clean Power Plan. KETA plays a direct leadership role in developing transmission for energy export; a newer market that has not only benefitted the Kansas economy, but also the national energy supply. KETA's record of success demonstrates a standard of excellence in the state leadership we need between the private and public interests of a secure and economical energy infrastructure.

By 2030, the Kansas Department of Commerce estimates Kansas will export 7000 MW of wind energy to other states. Wind and other renewable energy sources present a real economic opportunity for our state, and transmission is critical to delivering that energy. At a time when Kansas has great opportunity to lead the nation in renewable energy production and delivery, it would be foolish to abolish this important planning group and scale back our progress of a maintaining a reliable energy grid and strong electrical transmission.

**Oppose SB 318; Please do not withdrawal our state support for KETA and our progress on energy reliability and transmission capability.**

Sincerely,

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*The Sierra Club is the largest grassroots environmental organization dedicated to preserving, protecting, and enjoying our great outdoors. The Kansas Chapter represents our state's strongest grassroots voice on environmental matters for more than forty years now.*