

**Before the
Ways and Means Committee
of the Kansas Senate**

Opposing SB 499
March 14, 2016

Joint Testimony of Westar Energy, KCP&L, Kansas Municipal Utilities, Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Kansas City Board of Public Utilities and Midwest Energy.

Dear Chairman Masterson and members of the Committee:

SB 499 moves contractual responsibilities for school procurement of electricity from the Kansas Department of Education to the Kansas Department of Administration. See new section 1, (a)(1) D.

The electric utility industry's concern is that SB 499 would violate the Retail Electric Suppliers Act (RESA). This act establishes certificated service territories designated by the Kansas Corporation Commission.

SB 499 implies that the Department of Administration would be able to contract with other electric suppliers for energy to schools, which is not allowed by RESA.

We would respectfully request that references to contracting for electricity for schools be removed from SB 499.