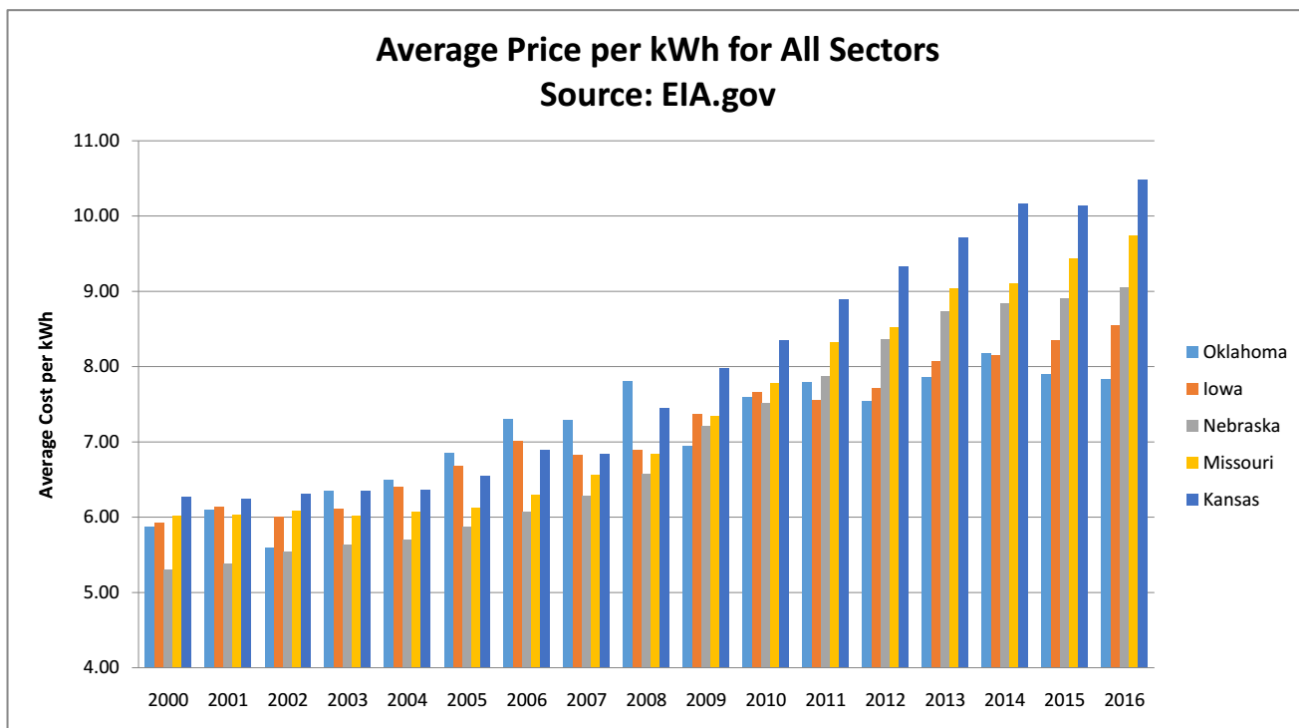


Senate Commerce Committee
 Senate Concurrent Resolution 1612 Written Testimony
 March 12, 2018

Dear Chairman Lynn and Senate Commerce Committee Members,

Americans for Electricity Choice (AFEC) is a consumer advocacy organization promoting lower electricity prices. AFEC supports SCR 1612 requiring the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) to lower Kansans' electricity rates to competitive levels and maintain those rates at competitive levels. If the KCC is unable to do so, the KCC will report to the Legislature and identify any new statutory authority required for the KCC to accomplish this goal. Electricity prices have a significant economic impact on Kansas' economy. Kansans spend more than \$3 billion annually for electricity.

According to the Energy Information Administration (EIA), Kansas electric rates have increased 52% since 2006 and Kansas has gone from being the 14th lowest electricity cost state in 2006 to the 35th lowest electricity cost state in 2016. Kansas is not competitive with other states in the region as shown below.



SCR 1612 would be beneficial to establish the authority of the KCC in lowering electricity rates, and then identifying any additional authority it might need to do so. SCR 1612 will set a course for making Kansas competitive with other states in the region by lowering high electricity rates and providing economic benefit to the state. The citizens of Kansas should not be held captive by high electric rates. For this reason AFEC supports SCR 1612.

Michael Matheson, Chairman