



**Testimony of David Mehlhaff**  
**On Behalf of the Kansas City Board of Public Utilities**  
**Oppose SB 209**  
**March 15, 2017**

Chairman Olson and members of the committee, BPU is expressing our opposition to SB 209. This bill could make our utility bills even more complicated than they are today at a huge increase in costs to our customers and this is not what our customers have been asking for as our current bills already include much of what is being proposed in this legislation.

Currently our bills sent to customers include electric charges; electric access charges and several riders including the Energy Rate Component (ERC) which represents the utility's cost of fuel along with the Environmental Surcharge (ESC) which offsets new capital improvement requirements resulting from federal, state and local environmental regulations.

Our BPU bills also include water charges; water access charges as well as charges imposed by the Unified Government (UG) of Wyandotte County, Kansas City, Kansas. These charges include stormwater management; trash removal; water pollution abatement and the payment-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILOT) charges along with all applicable city, state and county taxes.

The additional costs to further "unbundle" our customers' utility bills would range from \$6-7 million as our entire billing system would need to be replaced along with a reconfiguration of our E-meter software. The bill is just a small component to the overall changes that would need to be made which would include a year and half at minimum to get all new changes in place and that would also include a new rate study which would consist of new rate designs and a rate hearing process, of which we just completed.

We feel that this proposed legislation would cause additional confusion and costs to our customers. **BPU is strongly opposed to Senate Bill 209.** The complexity and cost that the legislation would mandate on our community-owned utility significantly outweighs any potential benefit that might be realized. In addition, the bill removes the ability of our municipally-owned and operated utility to self-determine the billing investments and priorities set forth by our elected Board based on input from our customer base.

Thank you for your consideration.