



Testimony of KCP&L Opposed to SB 322

Chuck Caisley, Vice-President, Marketing and Public Affairs, KCP&L
Before the Senate Utilities Committee
February 7, 2018

Chairman Olson and members of the committee, KCP&L is expressing our opposition to SB 322. This bill seeks to fully repeal a net metering compromise passed four years ago by this legislative body. Clean energy advocates and Kansas investor-owned utilities worked together in 2014 on that bill to insure renewable energy had an opportunity to grow in Kansas, but also consider customer interests. A letter of support from the 2014 compromise is attached for your reference.

KCP&L was an early supporter of the Net Metering and Easy Connection Act when it first passed in 2009 and later revised in 2014. Under these revisions we have seen net metered customers grow from a total of 48 installations in 2014 to more than 200 in 2017. The revisions made four years ago encouraged this growth by allowing net metered customers fair compensation for exporting energy to KCP&L, while at the same time ensuring equity for all our customers who do not self-generate their own electricity.

KCP&L maintains at the ready power plants; transmission and distribution lines; balancing and ancillary services; and other components to the electric distribution process for all our customers. This cost of having electricity available should be borne equitably among all customers who chose to use it including those net metered customers that connect when the sun isn't shining or the wind doesn't blow.

The legislative revisions made in 2014 ensured fairness for all our customers by minimizing the net metered subsidy, while at the same time, encouraging the use of renewable resources. We ask you to consider all our customers by limiting cross-subsidization that the compromise accomplished in 2014 and oppose this bill.

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**SENATE UTILITIES APPROVES NET METERING BILL;
CLEAN ENERGY ADVOCATES AND ELECTRIC UTILITIES SUPPORT COMPROMISE.**

Senate Substitute for HB 2101

On Tuesday, March 18, the Senate Committee on Utilities considered and unanimously approved a compromise net metering bill agreed to by all three Kansas investor-owned utilities (IOUs) and clean energy advocates and forwarded the bill to the full Senate for consideration.

Net metering is a cornerstone policy for rooftop solar and other renewable energy in Kansas and forty-two other states across the country that gives customers full retail credit for the power they generate to deliver to the grid. Even though rooftop solar in its infancy in Kansas, with only about 200 net metering customers in IOU territories today, utilities and legislators sought to reevaluate the state's net metering policy during the 2014 legislative session.

The compromise maintains net metering, grandfathers existing net meter customers, maintains reasonable size limits and provides a carve out for public and private post-secondary and K-12 schools.

Senate Substitute for HB 2101 represents a negotiated compromise between clean energy advocates, including Climate + Energy Project, Kansas Interfaith Power & Light, the Kansas Sierra Club, The Alliance for Solar Choice and Cromwell Solar, a Kansas-based solar energy company. These advocates worked with Westar Energy, KCP&L and The Empire District Electric Company to insure renewable energy has an opportunity to grow in Kansas, but also consider ratepayer interests.

On behalf of the parties to this agreement listed below, we ask Members of the Kansas Legislature to support Senate Substitute for HB 2101 as adopted by the Senate Committee on Utilities.

Please do not hesitate to contact anyone listed below if you have questions. Thank you.

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Climate + Energy Project

Mark Schreiber/Laura Lutz
Westar Energy

Rabbi Moti Rieber
Kansas Interfaith Power & Light

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Kansas Sierra Club
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