



**AMERICANS FOR
PROSPERITY**

KANSAS

February 14, 2018

Committee on Public Utilities

Chairman Olson, Vice Chairman Petersen and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee today and provide testimony.

My name is Martin Rodriguez and I am policy analyst with Americans for Prosperity. On behalf of the more than 50,000 Americans for Prosperity activists in Kansas, I urge you to support Senate Bill 396.

The Kansas Corporation Commission has an obligation to address the implications of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 on behalf of all utility customers. SB 396 would make sure the commission lives up to this responsibility. For this reason, we believe that passage of SB 396 is in the interest of all consumers in the state of Kansas.

Furthermore, it is only reasonable that tax revenue collected in anticipation by the utilities is returned to their rightful owners. We see no logic in funneling these funds into a purpose other than the one they were originally collected for.

As regulated monopolies, utilities are isolated from marketplace fluctuations and are guaranteed a fair rate of return. If utilities want to raise concerns to their revenue requirements, there are proper channels in the statutes to address these concerns.

By clarifying the role of the commission, SB 396 is a safeguard for consumers against solutions that might look good on paper but are, nevertheless, intended to preclude consumers to fully receive the benefits of tax reform.

Transparency and accountability are key components of robust public policy making.

Americans for Prosperity supports SB 396 and we look forward to working with you in the future to provide relief for all utilities consumers in Kansas.

Martin Rodriguez

Policy Analyst

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