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Proponent Written Testimony SB 198

Dorothy Barnett, Executive Director

Climate + Energy Project on behalf of the Clean Energy Business Council



Good afternoon Chairman Masterson, and committee members. Thank you for allowing me to present written testimony in support of SB 198. The Climate + Energy Project has been a strong advocate for renewable energy and energy efficiency in Kansas since 2007. In 2016 we created the Clean Energy Business Council which represents more than 20 clean energy businesses and organizations across the state.

You have heard from Ashok Gupta, with NRDC on the technical merits and benefits of SB 198, the Kansas Electricity Bill Reduction Bonds Act. We concur and support his comments.

As clean energy advocates, we believe this bill could have lasting beneficial effects on both utility scale and distributed renewable energy as we transition to clean energy at a more rapid pace. Kansas has first-hand experience with the economic and environmental benefits from clean energy and there is an appetite for more from businesses, cities and Kansas citizens. We are encouraged that not only can renewable energy investments be made with savings from ratepayer backed bonds, but the bill implicitly calls out investments in least-cost supply side and demand side resources.

Despite passing the Kansas Energy Efficiency Investment Act five years ago, Kansas remains 48th on the American Council for a Clean Energy Economy's energy efficiency scorecard. As electricity costs rise, we must find ways to finance energy efficiency programs for low and moderate income Kansans. SB 198 would at least add one tool that could be used to that end.

As we think about our energy future, securitization should be something we consider. Thank you for supporting the Kansas Electricity Bill Reduction Bonds Act – SB 198.

<https://energynews.us/2018/10/02/west/how-refinancing-could-help-retire-colorado-coal-plants-sooner/>

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/energyinnovation/2018/12/12/from-coal-to-clean-how-utilities-can-manage-the-inevitable-financial-transition/#fb7e49e79e1a>

<https://energyinnovation.org/publication/managing-the-utility-financial-transition-from-coal-to-clean-2/>