

Greater Wichita
Partnership

February 11, 2020

Senator Ty Masterson, Chairman
Senate Utility Committee
Kansas Senate
Kansas Capital Building
300 SW 10th Street
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Chairman Masterson:

The Greater Wichita Partnership joins other economic development organizations across Kansas in supporting Senate Bill 339.

The Partnership is the lead regional economic development organization in South-Central Kansas. The public-private partnership brings together the City of Wichita, Sedgwick County, and other area cities, counties, and economic development organizations in a 10-county region combined with over 125 private-sector employers. The Partnership drives economic development through comprehensive, data-driven action plans around primary job creation, talent attraction strategies, and quality of place development.

As such, our mission is closely aligned with our utilities partners as we collectively, along with the Kansas Department of Commerce, work to attract, retain, and expand employers in our state. This partnership was apparent last year when Evergy financially supported an analysis by Ady Advantage on local economic development incentive tools we commissioned for our region. Ady Advantage is one of the country's leading consulting firms on economic development strategies and targeted industry studies.

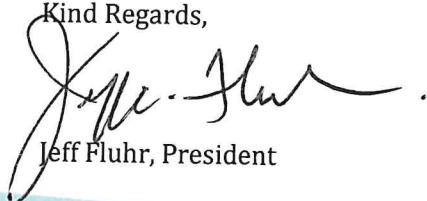
Ady's work with the Greater Wichita Partnership primarily evaluated local incentive tools but lauded the need for competitive tools our state & utility partners face from competing markets. ***Our region is often at a competitive disadvantage when it comes to economic incentives for major projects.***

SB 339 will provide enhancements to existing economic development riders (EDRs) that will strengthen our utilities' ability to attract large-scale (+50 MW load) consumers of electricity to our state. We have found that typically projects with that electric demand often provide:

- 1) **Significant Job Creation**
- 2) **Major Capital Investment**

Both of those factors will enhance our state's economy, tax structure, and quality of life. The Greater Wichita Partnership supports the passage of SB 339 and asks for your favorable consideration. I would be happy to address our support or this nomination further as needed.

Kind Regards,



Jeff Fluhr, President

