

City of Argonia

P.O. Box 35 - 210 S. Main

Argonia, Kansas 67004

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City Website: www.cityofargonia.com

To: House Financial Institutions and Rural Development
From: Tara Pierce, City Clerk
Date: March 3, 2021
RE: Testimony in Support of City Utility Low-Interest Program

Our small community of only 500 residents has been in shock over the Natural Gas pricing during the hard-cold spell mid-February. We are asking for our voice to be heard. This impact of the extreme change in price has set a very alarming shudder through our office, Governing Body, community members and businesses. This extreme cost could break us. We have worked so hard to keep our small quiet rural community afloat the past several years.

We have lost a business due to COVID-19 and are now being hit with the possibility of seeing a bill of over \$500,000.00 (when our monthly bill runs an average of \$9,000.00) is devastating and financially almost impossible for us to even take in. The hardship this will financially put on our already tight budget, our community, it's businesses and most of all it's hard working citizens would be devastating. We have many elderly and fixed income families that absolutely will never be able to afford such a cost.

We ask that you take into consideration finding relief for our community and others just like us, just like everyone else that is in this ship together. We need your help, we need you to hear our voice, we need everyone to come together and find ways to help those in need. Our Community and the City of Argonia want to Thank EVERYONE who is working so hard to find a solution and help raise hope to all of those worrying about what their future may hold. Thank you for your time and listening to our voice.

Sincerely,

Tara L. Pierce

City Clerk

City of Argonia

(620) 435-6553

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Mayor: Rick Dolley

Council Members: Bob Randall Don Phillips Scott Jones Felisha Noland Terina McCurley

City Clerk: Tara Pierce Treasurer: Karyn Taton

City Superintendent: Robert Dolley