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RANKING MEMBER: FEDERAL AND STATE AFFAIRS
ETHICS, ELECTIONS &
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JOINT COMMITTEES

MEMBER: RULES AND REGULATIONS
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CORRECTIONS AND JUVENILE
JUSTICE OVERSIGHT

Testimony in Support of HB 2321

March 17th, 2021

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman Mike Thompson, Vice Chair Mike Petersen, and Ranking Minority Member Marci Francisco.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of House Bill 2321.

First and foremost, I would like thank Rep. Gail Finney for her tireless work on this bill. Not only did she write a good bill, but also worked with Evergy and other community partners to develop an all-around digestible bill.

A couple of years ago, Evergy replaced a three-mile string of utility poles in my district. This string of poles, unlike the normal wooden poles of the past, now were large metal poles right in the middle of my constituents' yards. Naturally, many concerned Wichitans called me wondering, "Why weren't we notified this was happening in my own front yard?" Well, an antiquated Kansas statute states that if the replacement electrical lines followed the exact same path, the public need not be notified. This bill is a great step towards more accountability and transparency between our private utility partners and the communities they serve.

Thank you, and I urge your support for House Bill 2321.

Sen. Oletha Faust Goudeau