

SESSION OF 2022

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 5023**

As Recommended by House Committee on
Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications

Brief*

HCR 5023 states the State of Kansas denounces instances of price gouging and market manipulation involving natural gas, supports state efforts by the Office of the Attorney General and federal efforts by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to investigate increases in natural gas prices during the extreme cold weather event of February 2021, and encourages efforts to protect Kansas ratepayers. Further, the resolution states the Kansas Legislature stands ready to assist in such efforts as needed.

In whereas clauses, the resolution makes findings regarding the historic stretch of cold temperatures in Kansas from February 6, 2021, through February 18, 2021, resulting in extraordinary increases in the wholesale price of natural gas and the subsequent large increases in natural gas and electricity costs for Kansans.

The resolution requires the Secretary of State to send enrolled copies of the resolution to each member of Congress from Kansas, the chairperson of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and the Kansas Attorney General.

Background

HCR 5023 was introduced by the House Committee on Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications at the request of Representative Finch.

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

House Committee on Energy, Utilities and Telecommunication

In the House Committee hearing, **proponent** testimony was provided by a representative of the Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board, and written-only proponent testimony was provided by the Kansas State Treasurer and a representative of the Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. Proponents expressed support for protecting Kansas ratepayers through continued investigations of natural gas prices during the February 2021 cold weather event.

No other testimony was provided.

Fiscal Note

No fiscal note was available when the House Committee took action on the resolution.

Price gouging; market manipulation; extraordinary price increases; natural gas; extreme cold weather event; Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; ratepayers; state and federal investigation; Winter Storm Uri; February 2021