



KANSAS
ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTIES

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Senate Local Government Committee
March 23, 2023
SB 312

Kansas Association of Counties
Neutral Testimony – Written Only

Chairwoman McGinn and members of the Committee:

Thank you for allowing the Kansas Association of Counties to offer testimony on SB 312, which would require that county commissions approve any use of eminent domain by public utilities.

KAC is concerned that this legislation could draw county officials into issues over which they have no oversight. Transmission lines are authorized and overseen by the Kansas Corporation Commission. The county does not have a role in this process. In addition, counties would be authorizing eminent domain that the county itself would not actually be exercising. This has the potential to expose the county to legal liability.

KAC would encourage the committee to very carefully consider what, if any, role counties should play in this process, as well as where in the process that role should be. Thank you for allowing KAC to present this perspective on this bill.

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