

To: Honorable Senator Fagg, Chairman
Senate Utilities Committee
Date: March 18, 2024

Written Testimony in Support of House Bill 2527 -

On behalf of the Hutchinson/Reno County Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Hutch Economic Development Partnership we write today in full support of House Bill 2527 which will allow us to be more competitive for economic development opportunities by increasing electric power generation capacity in Kansas.

This bill is imperative to our economic development success as a community, region, and State. Evergy must be able to assure reliable and historic levels of electric power generation over the next few years. This affects every community served by Evergy who are working every day to attract new jobs and investment to Kansas, but the capacity of electric generation is not keeping pace with the growing need for power. Your support of this bill will allow Kansas to:

- Create more new quality jobs
- Help ensure the infrastructure is in place to serve new customers
- Support reliability of the system for existing customers
- Make Kansas more competitive to attract new business investment

The economic development opportunities today require historic levels of electric power capacity never seen before by our communities. In Reno County, we are developing an industrial park to ensure a future that provides jobs and economic vitality. Our site on K96 has all the attributes to be successful – 4 lane highway access, rail access, water infrastructure, and was recently annexed into the City of Hutchinson and rezoned for heavy industrial purposes. The key element to aid in our competitiveness is the speed in which Evergy can invest to build generation, transmission, and distribution infrastructure.

For this reason, we request your support of HB2527 to allow Evergy to continue to develop electric generation capacity in Kansas so that we continue to ensure that Kansas can compete at the highest level to attract new investment from the private sector into Kansas. We view Evergy as a partner in our economic development work, but they need our support on policies to level the playing field with other power companies in other competitive states. Thank you for your consideration and support of House Bill 2527.

Respectfully,
Debra Teufel, President/CEO
Hutchinson/Reno County Chamber of Commerce

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