

Before the House Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications Committee
Presented by Zack Pistora, Kansas Sierra Club
Proponent to HB 2156
2-9-23



Chairman Delperdang and Honorable Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 2156, which would authorize utilities to establish rates to benefit low-income residential customers, per the approval of the Kansas Corporation Commission.

The Sierra Club recognizes the need to assure the availability of electricity for essential uses to low-income persons, thus we support HB 2156.

To live and prosper in today's society, access to affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy is a basic need in daily life and fundamental to achieving rights related to health, environmental quality, education, and food and income security. Given the disparities in the housing stock and infrastructure across communities, it is imperative that future energy systems provide affordable energy access that ensures a healthy standard of living that provides for the basic needs of children and families.

HB 2156 would enable utilities to create low-income rates to help those eligible utility customers receive a price break on their bills, which help these Kansans better afford the utilities that aid their well-being.

Those facing financial hardship often struggle to pay their utility bills, so a low-income rate design will help these customers make ends meet on their utilities. With low-income Kansans receiving a more affordable bill, it's our hope that these Kansans will be in a better position to pay their bill, relieving other ratepayers from picking up those costs.

We urge you to pass HB 2156.

Sincerely,

Zack Pistora | Legislative Director and State Lobbyist, Kansas Chapter of Sierra Club

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The Sierra Club is the largest grassroots environmental organization dedicated to enjoying, exploring, and protecting our great outdoors. The Kansas Chapter represents our state's strongest grassroots voice on environmental matters for nearly fifty years.