

**Testimony of Kansans for Lower Electric Rates (KLER) and
Kansas Industrial Consumers Group (KIC)
In Support of House Bill 2597
Before the House Energy, Utilities & Telecom Committee
February 8, 2024**

KIC & KLER introduced this bill to ensure the KCC Staff and other stakeholders have sufficient time to thoroughly review an application for pre-determination under KSA 66-1239.

This statute was first enacted in 2003 to provide a regulatory process for utilities to determine the rate treatment for a particular operating decision. This pre-determination process has been used to determine the rate treatment of new generation resources, retirements and environmental projects. This process is also tied to the securitization statute passed in 2021.

HB 2597 simply changes the regulatory review timeframe, or the timeline the KCC must act within, from 180 days to 240 days. The rate case process, which many believe is too short, is also 240 days.

Energy generation investments, large plant additions and plant retirements are increasingly complex and more time at the KCC is warranted. We urge the committee to support HB 2597.

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The Kansas Industrial Consumers Group (KIC) is a coalition of large-volume energy users in Kansas. The members collectively represent billions of dollars of investment in the State and employ thousands of Kansans. Kansans for Lower Electric Rates (KLER) is an advocacy project of KIC with members of all sizes. We believe high energy costs are negatively impacting residential consumers, schools, hospitals, and large and small businesses.