

**Testimony of Kansans for Lower Electric Rates (KLER) and
Kansas Industrial Consumers Group (KIC)
In Support of House Bill 2588
Before the Senate Utilities Committee
March 5, 2024**

Kansas residential customers, businesses and organizations are struggling with high electricity costs. While many homeowners may invest in solar for its environmental benefits, businesses choose to invest because of the energy cost savings potential. It has to make economic sense. And with increasing electric costs, the payback for solar becomes much more attractive.

Kansas has a relatively short history with net metering. Development of systems was slow to develop at the beginning, mostly limited to residential customers. However, times are changing and the solar industry is more competitive than ever. It's time to update our net metering policies to keep pace with consumer trends and desires.

Many KIC & KLER members generally do not benefit from net metering because of the low capacity limit of 100kW. Even the modest capacity updates proposed in this bill would still be too low for many businesses to make an impact. Last year we proposed limits of 1MW.

Still, we are pleased to support this compromise bill, HB 2588. The bill does three important things:

1. Provides certainty the solar industry can continue using net metering
2. Modestly increases the size of systems customers can connect
3. Clarifies definitions as the net metering and solar industry evolves

For businesses, the opportunity to invest in solar or other means to self-generate electricity is a matter of economic freedom. We urge committee support of HB 2588.

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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.