



Testimony on HB 2588

03/04/2024

From: Malcolm Proudfit, CEO, Good Energy Solutions Inc.

Chairman Fagg and Members of the Committee:

Glad to be with you today to discuss solar and net metering. It has been quite a year, but we are happy to be here, in unison with Evergy in regards to the net metering bill introduced last week. This process has been so refreshing to me, as I have always felt that the relationship between the solar industry and the utilities should be one of cooperation and middle ground, and should never be adversarial. I am thankful for my friends from Evergy and their efforts to get this bill to its current state.

It is no secret that Kansas has been behind the times when it comes to net metering policy. This state ranks #8 in the nation for sunlight exposure, and we ought to utilize this resource to the best of our ability. Even in a high interest rate environment, the math for going solar still makes plenty of sense. I even had a system installed in the last calendar year. I am saving money month to month, my home is more valuable as a result.

This legislation will be a great thing for the economy in Kansas. Increasing the distributed generation cap from 1% to 5% will provide security to the dozens of installers already doing business in the state. It will help us to attract top-tier talent from out of state, and give us the courage to grow our businesses aggressively. It is my belief that this bill will be responsible for creating over one hundred jobs per year, and will do so for the next five years as the cap continues to step up.

The increase in the system size limit to 150kW will also be a big deal. It will allow us to truly help our residential customers with sizeable consumption to meet their needs, and will help us to attract more large-commercial clientele.

All in all, this bill is a massive win economically for the state of Kansas. Jobs will be created, tax revenues will increase, and the solar industry in the state will be able to catch up to that of other states with similar sunlight resources. Most importantly, we will be taking a much needed step to preserve and protect our environment.