




P.O. Box 4267, Topeka, Kansas 66604-0267
7332 SW 21st Street, Topeka, Kansas 66615

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

785-478-4554 • (Fax) 785-478-4852
www.kec.org

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

Proponent Written-only Testimony for HB 2168 – Ad Astra Rural Jobs Act

Feb. 6, 2018

Presented by:

**Leslie Kaufman, Director of Government Relations & Legal Counsel
Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc.**

Chairman Lynn and members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, thank you for the opportunity to submit written comments in support of HB 2168. I am Leslie Kaufman, Director of Government Relations & Legal Counsel for Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (KEC).

KEC is the statewide association representing rural electric cooperatives (RECs). Our co-ops are owned and controlled by the members they serve. While RECs combine to serve roughly 80 percent of the landmass in Kansas, our customer density is sparse, averaging just 3.2 member-consumers per mile of line statewide.

One of the seven tenants of the cooperative movement is “concern for community.” Our cooperative members live out that principle on a daily basis in numerous ways and many are very active in local and regional economic development activities. Creating jobs, growing the rural economy and building communities that retain and attract families is important to rural electric cooperatives.

The Ad Astra Rural Job Act creates one more tool to attract investment in rural communities, spur job creation and grow the Kansas economy. As such, we support HB 2168 and respectfully request the Committee advance the bill favorably for passage.

If you have any questions about our testimony or rural electric cooperatives, please feel free to contact us. Thank you again for the opportunity to share our support for HB 2168.

Leslie Kaufman

Director of Government Relations & Legal Counsel
Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc.
785-260-4877