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Before the Senate Committee on Utilities

February 18, 2019

Neutral Testimony
On Senate Bill 145

Submitted by Jeff McClanahan, Director, Utilities Division
On Behalf of
The Staff of the Kansas Corporation Commission

Chair Masterson, Vice Chair Petersen, Ranking Minority Member Francisco, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony to your Committee today on behalf of the Staff of the Kansas Corporation Commission (Commission).

The Staff of the Commission (Staff) is taking a neutral position on Senate Bill 145 (SB 145). As proposed by SB 145, the authority conferred on the Commission to determine whether the rates set by a board of public utilities are just and reasonable is based on a petition signed by not less than 5% of all of the board's customers or 3% of the board's customers from any single rate class. This rate review process is familiar to the Commission because the Commission currently has similar authority to review both cooperative and municipal public utilities rates based on customer(s) petitions. Staff also notes that, in the last twenty years, the Commission has only reviewed rates based on a customer(s) petition once.