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I am a consumer of KCP&L and a solar owner producing 40% of my home's power usage. I am also the face of a **Kansas Clean Energy Job**, an energy technical specialist for a wholesale electric supply company. I have supplied material and services to hundreds of solar and wind installations throughout the Midwest. I have seen firsthand the positive impact they have on a business or homeowner's financial viability, statewide job growth and economic stimulus. I've worked with rate structures, net metering policies, interconnection standards and fees through the entire Midwest and most of the US.

After nearly two decades in the wind and solar industry spanning 38 states and more than 100 utility territories, I am most appalled by the utter surrender of the KS legislature, KCC and CURB to the unsubstantiated requests of the Kansas IOUs. Decisions which systematically weakened energy alternatives through the limitation of system size, elimination of the renewable portfolio standard, devaluation of excess monthly generation, and the establishment of a national and international precedent segregating residential rate payers to separate classes, and now creating a separate-is-never-equal punitive demand rate for distributed generation. These policies not only sold the futures of each Kansas solar investor but the future of Kansas clean energy for decades to come, starving renewable energy in its infancy, forever stunting its growth. You sold our future and we are stuck with the bill.

Who has benefitted from these declining policy decisions? All businesses and homeowners suffer under escalating rates that outpace every neighboring state. Solar benefits everyone. Solar is not "unfair to other rate payers", a message designed to pit the suffering against the suffering. Solar extends the longevity of grid infrastructure, corrects voltage drops across the system, improves grid security, and produces the most energy during peak periods. Individual investment in energy efficiency and distributed generation is the only relief from the crushing inflationary rate of Kansas energy.

Wind farms can produce power at a lower cost than fossil fuel plants, but in Kansas it can only be distributed by utilities, adding capacity to an already poorly managed, inefficient centralized power system. The ratepayer pays the same price for wind energy as they do for coal or nuclear. The foreseeable energy future is the decentralization of our grid into manageable microgrids. They are more efficient, flexible and reactive, more secure and less wasteful. Solar is a decentralized technology, consumed where it is created. Solar creates more jobs than wind energy because it is decentralized. It provides ratepayers the **ONLY** lower cost energy option. It requires no maintenance, has long warranties and the cost continues to become more affordable. If I were a centralized utility, I'd want to either make it go away or own it.

Westar and KCP&L operate solar sales divisions on the "non-regulated" side of their businesses. Using regulatory policy and rate cases to secure business in the free market is sleight of hand of the worst sort, pulling a quarter from your ear while pulling a dollar from your pocket. Today, we come to the defense of homeowners and solar installers with a regulator's boot on their neck, regulators whose authority is to regulate utilities with exclusive service territories, not the free market and certainly not the people of Kansas. Not only does our leadership turn a blind eye to utilities extorting homeowners with solar, you legitimize the practice through policy. Our citizens should not be punished by regulation meant to protect them and that is why I support the Energy Fairness Act.