



Written Only Testimony in Support of SB 339
Presented to the Senate Committee on Utilities
Tim McKee, President
Olathe Chamber of Commerce & City of Olathe
February 12, 2020



Chairman Masterson and Honorable Committee Members,

The Olathe Chamber of Commerce is the largest chamber in Johnson County and the second largest chamber in the Kansas City area. Comprised of 1,300 members and growing its mission is to be the voice of business that advances the economic well-being and quality of life in Olathe. In addition, the City of Olathe is the second largest City in Johnson County and is growing at a very quick pace. Thank you for the opportunity to submit joint comments in support of the SB 339.

Recruiting new businesses and industry to the Olathe community is a top priority for the City and the Chamber. SB 339 is an attractive incentive that would allow Olathe and the state of Kansas to compete nationally for large-scale projects by allowing energy providers to negotiate a rate that uses existing or incremental generating capacity for new or existing customers who have a projected load of 50 MW or greater at one location in our service territory.

Passage of SB 339 would afford Kansas communities such as Olathe to attract such industries as data centers, aviation, food processing and advanced manufacturing. Our neighboring state of Missouri passed legislation like SB 339 and successfully used it to attract a steel mill.

There have been some concerns raised that this special contract rate will impact other customers' rates. However, the London Economics International rate study commissioned by the State reported tools such as SB 339 can help make our State's rates regionally competitive and have many downstream effects benefitting other customers. In essence, large new loads help reduce rates for all customers through direct and indirect benefits.

For the reasons stated above the Olathe Chamber and the City of Olathe urge your support and passage of SB 339.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim McKee, CEO, Olathe Chamber of Commerce

Michael Wilkes, City Manager, City of Olathe