



**Senate Committee on Utilities
Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 339
Presented by Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs**

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Mister Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber. The Kansas Chamber represents small, medium and large businesses of all industry segments across the state.

The Kansas Chamber appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 339, which allows the Kansas Corporation Commission to approve special electric rates for economic development purposes.

SB 339 puts guidelines in place for the KCC to follow for determining economic development projects including a provision that new customers/facilities, or expansion of existing facilities that at peak demand will have at least 200 KW within two years of first receiving the discounted rate. SB 339 is another tool in the toolbox to be used to attract new investment and business to Kansas, while also making existing businesses more competitive.

The recent energy study conducted by London Economics, Inc. says the following about economic development riders- *“This increased economic activity brings with it success in terms of job creation and private capital investment, which ‘multiplies throughout the region in the form of increased spending in retail establishments, new housing starts, and population growth.’*²⁵⁵ The additional load and broadened customer base attracted through EDRs also helps to lower rates for all customers, as the utility’s fixed costs for generating and delivering electricity are now spread across more ratepayers.”

In closing, SB 339 creates an economic development tool for the state and for large, industrial ratepayers. We appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 339, and I am happy to answer any questions at the appropriate time.