



February 23, 2021

Testimony in Support of HB 2381
House Committee on Energy, Utilities, & Telecommunications

Chairman Seiwert, Vice Chair Schreiber, Ranking Member Kuether and Members of the House Energy Committee:

The Northeast Johnson County cities of Merriam, Mission, Prairie Village, and Westwood Hills express their strong support for House Bill 2381, establishing the state energy plan task force to develop a comprehensive state energy plan.

The creation and implementation of a state energy plan is long overdue and is crucial for our state to explore new policies and practices related to reliability, renewable energy, affordable pricing and development of long-term energy policies for the state. According to the National Association of State Energy Officials, Kansas is only 1 of 10 states with no statewide energy plan. We believe now is the time for Kansas to move forward and explore new energy technologies and opportunities for workforce development.

We support the goals of HB 2381 and the statewide strategies to be included in a state energy plan, and in particular those strategies to “enhance energy efficiency and electric vehicle infrastructure, stimulate economic development, stimulate development of new and emerging energy technologies and systems, and promote diversity of the resources that supply energy to and within Kansas while promoting affordability for consumers and protecting the environment and the state’s natural resources.”

Our cities share a commitment and common interest in many of these very issues, which are reflected in our legislative platforms. For example:

- The City of Mission supports the “development of a coordinated and comprehensive energy policy, including the use of renewables, developed with strong input from cities.”
- The City of Prairie Village platform acknowledges the climate crisis as a public policy priority and supports policy makers in elevating sustainable policies and practices.
- The City of Merriam, too, supports the development of a coordinated energy plan that “supports creative implementation of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies that are environmentally sustainable and economically prosperous.

The City also supports public and private incentives to encourage energy efficiency and renewable energies by local governments and citizens.”

With these goals in mind, we do hope local governments will be afforded the chance to offer their voice and input as the state works toward these goals. Our citizens and local elected officials are committed to making our communities, and our state, a safe, affordable, quality, and sustainable place to live. A comprehensive state energy plan and long-term goals that clearly define where we want our state to be in the future when it comes to “affordable, reliable, clean and abundant energy” are important in making that a reality.

In the midst of a changing economy and changing energy landscape, HB 2381 provides a unique and bipartisan opportunity to help lead our state toward a bright energy future.

We urge you to consider HB 2381 favorable for passage. Thank you for your attention and we welcome any questions you may have on this matter.

Stuart J. Little, Ph.D.
Little Government Relations
stuartjlittle@mac.com