

**Testimony of Kansans for Lower Electric Rates and  
Kansas Industrial Consumers Group  
In Opposition to HB 2381  
Before the House Energy & Utilities Committee  
February 23, 2021**

Kansans for Lower Electric Rates (KLER) and the Kansas Industrial Consumers Group (KIC) are opposed to HB 2381 because the task force framework does not advance the goal of achieving regionally competitive rates. Instead, the bill provides a roadmap for justifying additional (and potentially unnecessary) investment – all paid for by Kansas consumers.

It is unclear what HB 2381 would achieve under its proposed state energy plan. With the notable absence of a plan to achieve regionally competitive electric rates (i.e., the core focus of the rate study referenced in the bill), Kansas is already far along the energy-transformation path. For instance:

- Kansas is already a leader in wind energy development.
- Kansas utilities are already leaders in using wind energy.
- Kansas utilities are already experimenting with battery storage.
- Kansas utilities are already readily building transmission.
- Kansas utilities are already using utility-scale solar (and a 500MW project is planned).
- Kansas utilities have extensive experience using coal, natural gas, and nuclear plants and have contracted for hydroelectric generation.
- Kansas utilities and regulators fully understand the benefits of energy efficiency.
- Kansas utilities fully understand how to create shareholder value.
- Kansas utilities and other stakeholders have sufficient experience with electric vehicles.

Kansas utilities are run by smart people. Kansas energy interests are run by smart people. If they need the Legislature to consider something, they know how to make their voice heard. What is the value of HB2381's energy plan? What will it tell us that we don't already know?

What HB2381's energy plan will do is push Kansas utilities to spend more money when customers are already struggling to pay their bills. We are opposed to HB 2381 and encourage the committee to reject processes that tell us what we already know. If anything, Kansas' energy plan should examine best practices to implement to lower the price we pay for electricity.

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Kansas Industrial Consumers Group & Kansans for Lower Electric Rates

*The Kansas Industrial Consumers Group is a coalition of large-volume energy users in Kansas. The members collectively represent billions of dollars of investment in the State and employ thousands of Kansans. Kansans for Lower Electric Rates is an advocacy project of KIC with members of all sizes. We believe high energy costs are negatively impacting residential consumers, schools, hospitals, and large and small businesses.*