

Before the House Energy, Utilities, and Telecommunications Committee
Presented by Zack Pistora, Kansas Sierra Club
Proponent on HB 2381
February 23, 2021



Chairman Seiwert and honorable members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2381, which would charge a task force to develop a comprehensive state energy plan for Kansas. The Kansas Chapter of Sierra Club has previously supported the idea of the state energy plan and we are excited about the prospects of this legislation.

As the dynamics of energy rapidly change throughout the United States, Kansas needs a comprehensive state energy plan to strategically adapt and guide policy to meet our challenges and capitalize upon opportunities. We need a good faith, cooperative effort by all energy stakeholders to better our future.

Surprisingly, Kansas is one of eight states that has not created a comprehensive state energy p, according to the National Association of State Energy Officials. The State of Kansas has a Kansas Water Plan that serves as an important guide to address current water resources issues and plan for future needs. We should also have a state energy plan, given the major impact that energy has on our economy, our environment, and the public's well-being.

The London Economics (LEI) report includes the development of a state energy plan as one of their top recommendations to help make electric rates more competitive.

LEI highlighted the opportunity of a state energy plan on page 131: *“Developing a state energy plan can help Kansas determine what its energy goals are, how to achieve them, and at what cost.”*

We do offer a couple ideas to improve HB 2381:

- 1) **Move up the timeline to July 1st, 2022.** Because the current submission date of the state energy plan is on or before January 31, 2023, the timeline for the state energy plan could be complicated by the reelection campaign season in summer and fall 2022 for the House of Representatives members. This change would align HB 2381 with the success of the Transportation Vision Task Force that completed their plan in seven months.
- 2) **HB 2381 could add a few more regular stakeholders on energy matters to the task force's voting members.** The task force membership appears to leave out a few regular voices on Kansas energy matters. We feel that giving additional seats and voting privileges to groups like the Kansas Industrial Consumers Group, the Kansas Corporation Commission, AARP, and the Kansas Chapter of Sierra Club could bring all regular energy stakeholders together for mutually beneficial policymaking. We also think CURB should be a voting member. The task force would benefit from having a Kansas university climate scientist and federal policy liaison as non-voting members.

We encourage this committee to pass HB 2381 this year. With a comprehensive state energy plan, Kansas will be better equipped and coordinated to advance energy-related economic development, security, and environmental quality.

Thank you,

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The Sierra Club is the largest grassroots environmental organization dedicated to enjoying, exploring, and protecting our great outdoors. The Kansas Chapter represents our state's strongest grassroots voice on environmental matters for over forty years.