



**Written Only Support Testimony  
HB 2381 – State Energy Plan Task Force**

**House Committee on Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications  
February 23, 2021**

**Provided by Leslie Kaufman, Vice President of Government Relations & Legal Counsel  
Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc.**

Chairman Seiwert and members of the House Committee on Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications, thank you for the opportunity to offer our support for HB 2381. I am Leslie Kaufman, Vice President of Government Relations & Legal Counsel.

KEC is the Kansas statewide service organization for 27 electric distribution cooperatives and three generation and transmission cooperatives. KEC represents the interests of, and provides needed services and programs to, the electric co-ops that serve Kansans. Our major programming areas include advocacy, education, and communications. Cooperatives provide electric service to consumer-owners spread over nearly 80 percent of Kansas in 103 of 105 counties.

The bill before you today, HB 2381, establishes the state Energy Plan Task Force to develop a comprehensive state energy plan by Jan. 31, 2023. KEC supports this concept.

In 2019, electric cooperatives were among those supporting SB 181, a 25-member task force to develop forward looking energy policy ideas. That task force would have included a broad-based group of stakeholders from consumer classes, renewable technology representatives, the electric utility industry and government policymakers. We consider the HB 2381 task force make-up, although smaller, as relatively consistent with what we had previously advocated for.

In a recent small group discussion with our members, they stressed that a state energy plan should focus on and identify key priorities for the state. Setting appropriate policy framework will be important to ensure that individual projects and initiatives are directed toward achieving specific goals, not just implementing programs.

We appreciate having electric cooperatives included within the task force membership and believe inclusion on the task force of all the various types of certificated electric providers is critical.

The Kansas Legislature has seen how a robust and thoughtful policy approach to vital issues can lead to success, as has been the case with comprehensive transportation plans, for instance. We think a state Energy Plan Task Force, could be equally successful in developing state policy objectives for Kansas' energy future. Thank you for your consideration of HB 2381.