

**Testimony of
Mark Schreiber
Director Government Affairs
Westar Energy
On Senate Bill 128
January 31, 2007**

Good morning Chairman Emler and members of the committee, my name is Mark Schreiber. I am the Director Government Affairs for Westar Energy.

Senate Bill 128 establishes an advisory group for the purpose of developing consistent, statewide energy efficiency and conservation information. Westar Energy supports this bill.

Every utility has encouraged its customers to use energy efficiently. This bill enhances that effort by developing uniform standards, requirements and guidelines for energy education. Although this advisory group will set the standards, utilities may still exceed those standards in order to reach certain customer segments, such as commercial and industrial users. Westar Energy formed an internal energy efficiency task force to evaluate our current energy efficiency and conservation activities and develop new ones. By coordinating a statewide effort, customers will be receiving a consistent message wherever they live and as they move within the state.

Westar Energy would like to offer two suggestions for the bill. The first is on page 2, lines 38 – 41. We would suggest having the utilities provide input to the Kansas energy office's report to the legislature rather than having each utility offer a report to the legislature. Our second suggestion is on page 3, lines 6 – 8. We would suggest replacing the language in these lines with "The state corporation commission shall assure cost recovery of these programs by the regulated utilities." If the regulated utilities are being required to follow the standards established by the state corporation commission's energy office, these utilities should be assured cost recovery.

Westar Energy supports SB 128 and would appreciate the committee's consideration of our suggested language. Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee this morning.