

**Testimony for the Senate Utilities Committee
January 31, 2007
Supporting S. B. 128**

Chairperson Emler and Honorable Members of the Committee:

My name is Tom Thompson and I represent the Kansas Chapter of the Sierra Club. I am writing to support S.B. 128.

S.B. 128 provides for energy conservation information to be provided to consumers and the establishment of an energy conservation advisory group.

Wanting to conserve energy and knowing how are not the same. Many individuals and businesses would like to be more energy efficient but do not know where to start. Financing, energy audits, available tax incentives, energy saving products and energy saving practices need to be made available and encouraged.

As a retired teacher I believe it is important to have qualified individuals create programs to provide information on best practices, programs that have the best chance of working and programs that work is important. The energy conservation advisory group described in the bill could help assure that public information programs reach the public effectively with proven ways to be efficient.

As a consumer, I recently bought an Energy Star refrigerator. To do this was a bigger chore than I expected. At several stores, salespeople either did not know what Energy Star was or thought that because there was a yellow label in the refrigerator indicating energy efficiency that it was an Energy Star appliance. In most cases they were not. With effective education the public will be better able to spend their energy dollars wisely.

If people conserve, there will be less demand for generated energy. This would result in a decreased need to build electric generation capacity, less pollution, and a healthier environment in which to live.

Because S.B. 128 promotes Energy Efficiency and Conservation the Sierra Club hopes this committee will pass it out favorably.

Thank you for this opportunity and your time.

Sincerely

Tom Thompson
Sierra Club