

Testimony in favor of H.B. 2045

Concerning certain electric transmission facilities and providing for recovery of certain costs of construction and upgrading.

Before the Senate Committee on Utilities

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On behalf of the Kansas Chapter of Sierra Club

Mr. Chairman, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of H.B. 2045.

The Sierra Club is the largest grass roots environmental organization in the world with almost 800,000 members, including over 4,000 in Kansas. The Kansas Chapter of Sierra Club has just launched a campaign to promote both energy efficiency and renewable energy, specifically wind power, in Kansas. You can read about that campaign, and obtain more information about the work of the Kansas Chapter of Sierra Club, at <http://kansas.sierraclub.org/>.

The Kansas Chapter of Sierra Club is very supportive of legislation that provides incentives for utilities to construct increased electrical transmission capacity, especially in western Kansas - where the bulk of the state's vast wind energy resources are located. The main obstacle to utilizing that resource is the limit on transmission capacity. We believe that H.B. 2045 provides positive incentives for utilities to increase their transmission capacity where the need for such increased transmission capacity has been shown to exist, no matter the source of electric generation. Upgrades to the state's transmission infrastructure will be of benefit to ratepayers statewide and we believe will also be a positive step toward facilitating the utilization of Kansas' vast wind resources. We respectfully urge this committee to report this bill out favorably for passage by the full Senate.

Thank you for your attention. I would be pleased to stand for questions at the appropriate time.