



A Division of ONE Gas

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February 14, 2023

OPPONENT TESTIMONY
HB 2154
Patrick Vogelsberg
Kansas Gas Service
Senate Committee on Utilities

Chairman Delperdang and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of Kansas Gas Service, a division of ONE Gas, Inc., in opposition to HB 2154. Kansas Gas Service is the state's largest, 100% regulated natural gas utility. We are proud to serve more than 647,000 customers across 360 Kansas communities.

More than a century ago, the Kansas Legislature recognized the public's desire to regulate utilities. In the years since the Kansas Legislature created the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC), Kansans and utilities-alike have come to expect a professional and stable regulatory framework. Kansas Gas Service has operated under this comprehensive setting since 1906. With the KCC's oversight, we exist to deliver safe, reliable, and affordable energy to Kansans – to deliver natural gas for a better tomorrow.

HB 2154 fundamentally, and rapidly, restructures how Kansas regulates public utilities. Rapidly reforming utility regulation can introduce uncertainty into our operations and negatively affect our customers. When Kansas Gas Service makes decisions as a company, we are mindful of how those decisions will impact our customers decades in the future. Like any significant undertaking, a proposal as large as HB 2154 should be the product of, and supported by, broad stakeholder consensus.

Kansas Gas Service fully appreciates the topics contained in HB 2154. Our sister utilities operate in states with elected commissioners or municipal-level rate regulation. While we have direct knowledge of different regulatory frameworks, we are mindful of how each state creates the best regulatory setting for its citizens. Introducing uncertainty in the regulatory process simply creates risk, which financial markets take note of and for which we all pay. Before undoing a century's worth of regulatory clarity, we believe broad discussion between customers, businesses, utilities, and advocates-alike is needed.

We respectfully request that the House Committee on Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications reject HB 2154. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick Vogelsberg".

Patrick Vogelsberg
Manager of Government Affairs
Kansas Gas Service