



DATE: March 21, 2023

TO: Senate Committee on Utilities

ATTN: Chairman Olson and Members of the Committee

FROM: Kelly, Gilbert, Executive Director, Metropolitan Energy Center
Emily Wolfe, Sr. Public Affairs Coordinator, Metropolitan Energy Center

RE: Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 278

We are with Metropolitan Energy Center (MEC), a nonprofit organization with a nearly 40-year history of transforming energy use in the building and transportation sectors across Kansas and Missouri. We have a long history of working with communities and local governments to better understand how consumers utilize energy and to disseminate training, resources, and new technology. In the past five years alone, MEC has effectively managed approximately \$20 million in federally funded contracts. Most of that funding was received from the Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Energy.

MEC would not have come to be if not for the evident need brought forward by community members for energy solutions. However, we have a small staff and like so many other organizations, can only reach so many communities with meaningful engagement.

We support SB 278 because it would provide much-needed insights into the energy burden felt by rural communities, as well as higher quality information about the better-understood issue of energy justice for urban communities. This data would help utilities, policymakers, state employees, and organizations like us better align resources and efforts with each Kansas county's unique, complex needs. When more diverse backgrounds are heard and understood, the more everyone's actions will accomplish mutually beneficial scenarios through efficient use of private and public funds.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have questions or need additional information.

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