



**Senate Committee on Utilities
Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 81
Presented by Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs**

Wednesday, February 10, 2021

Mister Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber. The Kansas Chamber represents small, medium and large businesses of all industry segments across the state. The Kansas Chamber appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 81, which requires the Kansas Corporation Committee submit a report to the Legislature of the average customer electric utility rates in Kansas compared to the rates of nine regional states.

Rising energy costs have become a top concern of our members, especially those in the manufacturing sector that tends to use more electricity than other businesses. According to our 2020 Annual Competitive Index, Kansas has reached the lowest ranking in the last decade for its energy costs.

As we collected feedback from our members on this bill, it was suggested to amend this bill to include the previous five years of rates to help show the full trend of rates in Kansas. It was also suggested to amend the bill to include in the report whether any state or federal mandates have had an impact on electric rates.

We appreciate the opportunity to support Senate Bill 81, and I am happy to answer any questions at the appropriate time.