



## Opponent Testimony for SB 279

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For the Senate Utilities Committee

March 23, 2021

Chairman Thompson and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide our views on Senate Bill 279.

Who would have thought that in less than a decade, Kansas would be in the top three states in the country generating clean energy for its citizens? The rapid growth of wind energy in Kansas was made possible by a number of factors, not the least of which was the willingness of landowners to embrace wind energy technology and work with wind developers on welcoming clean energy into their communities.

Because of that, today, a third of the power that Evergy provides to our customers comes from renewable sources, mostly wind. We are concerned that SB 279 would inhibit the continued growth of the wind industry in Kansas.

In 2018, Evergy's regulator, the Kansas Corporation Commission, approved a new tariff that allows us to enter into agreements with our large-scale customers wishing to purchase renewable energy to further their companies' goals of going green and in many cases reducing their energy costs. In an effort to attract new businesses and provide additional renewable options for current customers, we

created the Renewables Direct program as an economic development tool to attract large companies to the state. The program aims to attract business development to Kansas and Missouri by offering businesses a path toward their sustainability goals with our areas' abundant, affordable renewable energy.

Companies can choose the type of energy that's right for their business goals, lock in electricity prices for multiple years, and tout the fact that their workplaces and manufacturing facilities are powered by renewable energy. Today, some of the largest businesses in Kansas, along with educational institutions and manufacturing companies, are all able to take advantage of cheaper and cleaner power through Evergy's Renewables Direct program.

We are concerned that SB 279 in its current form would add onerous requirements for wind development in Kansas and could slow or stop progress on projects currently underway. We believe there is a better way to ensure landowners' concerns are heard, and we commit to being a part of that dialogue. Thank you for the opportunity to provide our perspective.

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*Evergy, Inc. (NYSE: EVRG) provides clean, safe and reliable energy to 1.6 million customers in Kansas and Missouri. By combining KCP&L and Westar Energy, Inc., in 2018, a leading energy company was created that provides value to shareholders and a stronger company for customers. Together we generate nearly half the power we provide to homes and businesses with emission-free sources. We support our local communities where we live and work, and strive to meet the needs of customers through energy savings and innovative solutions.*