

**TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE  
SENATE UTILITIES COMMITTEE  
IN SUPPORT of HB2045  
From**

KANSAS ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE, INC.  
KANSAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES, INC.  
MIDWEST ENERGY, INC.  
SUNFLOWER ELECTRIC POWER CORPORATION

March 1, 2005

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee for providing the electric cooperatives listed the opportunity to speak today on House Bill 2045. It is a proposal we believe will improve access to regional power supplies through an improved transmission system in Kansas.

**My name is Dave Holthaus. I am Manager of Government Relations for Kansas Electric Cooperatives.** In the interest of your time, my colleagues elected me to speak for all of us today.

As you are aware, the electric power industry has been in a state of turmoil in recent years as it has tried to find ways to improve access to, and reduce constraints in, the regional transmission system.

Two persistent questions the industry struggles with are: where are transmission infrastructure improvements needed, and, who is going to pay for them?

While this legislation you are considering today will not necessarily resolve those issues, we do believe it will help stimulate the growth of the Kansas transmission system. When the improvements statewide are completed, all Kansas utilities will ultimately have improved access to regional power supply markets.

Another bill approved by the House has the same goal in mind, to provide assurance for transmission construction. HB 2263 creates the Kansas Electric Transmission Authority and includes some of the same language as HB 2045. While the two bills stand as separate pieces of legislation, we believe it might be instructive to have the hearing on HB 2263 before considering action on either proposal.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear today and I will be happy to address any questions.