



Testimony In Support of House Bill No. 2045
House Utilities Committee
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Prepared by
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Good Morning Mr. Chairman and fellow committee members. My name is Carl Huslig and I am the Vice President of Transmission for Aquila Networks – West Plains Kansas. Aquila appreciates the opportunity to testify before you in support of House Bill 2045.

I would like to begin by stating that this committee, and its counterpart in the Senate, has successfully promoted and passed legislation in recent sessions to enhance the transmission system in Kansas. The steps taken in recent years regarding transmission prompted the FERC Chairman, Pat Wood, to deem Kansas “best-in-class”- the model which other states should follow concerning the advancement of the transmission network. It is imperative that we continue to advance this “best in class” model which is why Aquila strongly supports this bill.

Without a doubt, all of us realize that there is a need to expand and improve the transmission system in the state of Kansas, in order to improve electric system reliability and to provide the infrastructure for pending energy markets. Aquila strongly supports this committee’s vision to supply Kansas with a reliable and reasonably priced transmission system that provides transmission owners with adequate cost recovery.

Aquila strongly supports the general intent of this bill but has concerns with the bill as written. Aquila agrees with the language in Section 1 paragraph (a) except for the arbitrary nature of 5 miles in length. Aquila can envision a new line that is much shorter, which would provide economic and reliable benefits. From Aquila’s viewpoint, length of line is not essential and does not need to be stipulated in the legislation.

Aquila would suggest that the word may be replaced with shall in Section 1 paragraph (b). If a facility is necessary for reliability or economic purposes and has been identified by a regional transmission operator as necessary, then upon providing an application quantifying the benefits the commission shall approve the facility.

Aquila remaining comments are editorial only. Using terms such as measurable and significant is acceptable, but Aquila would prefer that this bill includes language that defines these terms such as providing a 10 year NPV positive benefit.

Finally, Aquila appreciates the opportunity to provide input on this bill. I am happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time. Thank you.