

**Testimony of Kansans for Lower Electric Rates (KLER) and
Kansas Industrial Consumers Group (KIC)
In Support of Senate Bill 455
Before the House Energy, Utilities & Telecom Committee
March 14, 2024**

SB 455 is a straightforward approach to ensure that fossil fuel-generating assets that customers have paid for will not be prematurely retired or abandoned without thorough consideration by the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC).

The bill states:

1. The utility will replace the abandoned or retired facility with dispatchable power.
2. The retired facility shall not cost customers more than simply continuing operation of the facility.

Concerns about electric generation capacity have grown considerably since Winter Storm Uri in 2021. Evergy and the KCC have indicated there are no plans to close generating plants in the next several years.

SB 455 simply provides certainty to all stakeholders, including customers, that Kansas will have sufficient generating resources in the future. It includes a 10-year sunset.

We support the joint stakeholder-approved amendment from the KCC that will provide the KCC with additional flexibility to administer the bill.

KIC & KLER urge the Committee to support SB 455.

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The Kansas Industrial Consumers Group (KIC) is a coalition of large-volume energy users in Kansas. The members collectively represent billions of dollars of investment in the State and employ thousands of Kansans. Kansans for Lower Electric Rates (KLER) is an advocacy project of KIC with members of all sizes. We believe high energy costs are negatively impacting residential consumers, schools, hospitals, and large and small businesses.