

**House Energy, Utilities and Telecommunications
Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 455- Retirement of Fossil Fuel Facilities
Presented by Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs, Kansas Chamber**

Thursday, March 14, 2024

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. We appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 455, which establishes criteria for the Kansas Corporation Commission to evaluate to determine if it's acceptable to retire a fossil fuel electric generation facility.

SB 455 comes to you, as passed by the Senate as a combination of SB 455, and 456. SB 456 was the companion bill to HB 2620. Those bills were merged by the Senate Committee and are the product of their work. While there were changes to the based bill of SB 456, we remain supportive of this proposal.

As amended, the first factor addresses generation capacity to ensure the facility is being replaced with dispatchable energy sources either by the utility or by the regional transmission authority (SPP in this case) to balance capacity needs of the service territory (Section 1, page 3). SB 456 requires the new energy source to either maintain or improve reliability of the grid and protects the minimum reserve capacity. This provision is unchanged from the original version.

Section 4(B) on page 3 includes language offering protections to ratepayers that a plant closure will not adversely affect Kansas ratepayers. While this language is different than what was in the original version of the legislation, these changes were made to address concerns by Evergy in the original version of the bill and we remain supportive of the legislation.

In closing, we respectfully ask the committee to support Senate Bill 455 by setting clear guidelines for the corporation commission to follow to consider the impact on ratepayers by a utility's decision to retire a fossil fuel electric generation facility. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today and I'm happy to answer questions at the appropriate time.