



February 9, 2024

Senate Committee on Utilities
Senator Michael Fagg, Chair

Re: SB 457 AN ACT concerning public utilities; relating to eminent domain; prohibiting public utilities from exercising eminent domain for the siting or placement of solar facilities; amending K.S.A. 2023 Supp. 66-104 and repealing the existing section.

Position: Proponent

The Kansas Cattleman's Association (KCA) formed in 1998 serves USA agriculture and independent beef producers since 1998. The Kansas Cattlemen's Association is committed to restoring profits, self-esteem, freedom, fair trade, trust, and community pride back to the farms, ranches and rural communities across Kansas and the nation.

The Kansas Cattlemen's Association (KCA) and its members support Senate Bill 457 and its amendment to prohibit the use of eminent domain for the siting or placement of solar facilities.

A significant foundational strength of our State and Country is property rights and land ownership. This has led to the growth and success of agriculture and providing security through food and agriculture production.

Private property rights and protection of landowner's rights are supported by the membership of KCA. Additionally, KCA supports a strong power transmission and generation system that provides reliable power that benefits rural communities and agricultural producers. KCA believes that this bill takes positive steps in securing the property rights of landowners, tenants, and the general public by prohibiting the use of eminent domain for the siting or placement of solar facilities.

The Kansas Cattlemen's Association (KCA) and its members support Senate Bill 457 and its amendment to prohibit the use of eminent domain for the siting or placement of solar facilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matt Steele", is positioned above the typed name and title.

Matthew T. Steele, Ph.D, P.E.
Kansas Cattlemen's Association
Executive Director