



Kansas Research and Education Network
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To: Kansas Senate Utilities Committee
Senator Pat Apple, Chair

Dear Chairman Apple and members of the committee,

On behalf of KanREN, the Kansas Research and Education Network, I am offering this testimony, as neutral information, regarding Senate Bill 398. KanREN believes that, with the changes proposed by KSBOR to the KAC on February 13, SB398 reflects the intention and spirit of the joint vision document provided originally to the Interim Kan-ed Study Committee by KanREN and Kan-ed last fall. SB398, as amended, would also be consistent with testimony provided numerous times by Dr. Andy Tompkins, President Kansas Board of Regents, and moves Kan-ed in a direction of increased efficiency and a more focused mission as directed by the Legislature.

The joint Kan-ed/KanREN vision statement and Dr. Tompkins's previous testimony is somewhat more pointed than the current language in SB398. KanREN hopes, as the bill evolves, to see language that more clearly spells out roles, responsibilities and milestones for Kan-ed as it moves forward to the next iteration of the program.

As always, KanREN would be pleased to answer questions, and offer assistance if desired.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cortney T. Buffington", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Cortney T. Buffington
Executive Director
KanREN, Inc.