



Written Testimony SB 349

Opposed

Dorothy Barnett

Climate + Energy Project

Executive Director

Chairman Thompson, Ranking Member Francisco, and Senate Utilities Committee, thank you for letting me provide written testimony in opposition of SB 349. I direct the Climate + Energy Project (CEP) a 15-year-old nonprofit whose mission is to equitably eliminate greenhouse gas emissions. While I do believe it is important to keep rates as low as possible, especially for the most vulnerable Kansans, I believe this legislation will have unintended consequences for energy efficiency.

For the first time in five years, Evergy has proposed a substantial energy efficiency portfolio to the Kansas Corporation Commission. CEP is an intervener in the docket and was involved in a stakeholder process to help shape the portfolio of programs. The public application notes that residential and businesses will have a host of programs to access including whole home or business efficiency program, home and business energy education program, home and business demand programs and home and business hard to reach business programs that will focus on low- and moderate-income Kansans, nonprofit, small business and rural business customers.

While we have suggestions on ways to make this filing better, we will be able to work through our concerns during the docket process at the KCC.

We are concerned that the 1% cap on rates suggested in this bill will limit the amount of energy efficiency programs that Kansans will have access to. Kansas is already near the bottom of the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy's (ACEEE) annual efficiency scorecard at 47th in the nation. Evergy customers in Missouri have had access to energy efficiency programs helping them save money on their electric bills for nearly a decade. It's past time for Kansans to have access to energy efficiency.

The public filing for the Evergy docket indicates the net bill impacts for the suite of programs would be an average of 1.25% for residential and 1.24% business customers. If this bill passes, it's likely the program offerings will be diminished, and Kansans will lose out on saving money on their monthly utility bills.