

CAPITOL OFFICE

State Capitol
201 West Capitol Avenue
Room 308
Jefferson City, MO 65101-6806
Tele: (573) 751-4039
Todd.Richardson@house.mo.gov



SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

Todd Richardson

State Representative
District 152

COMMITTEE

Ex-officio member of all
committees of the House

DISTRICT ADDRESS

123 South Second Street
Poplar Bluff, MO 63901
Tele: (573) 686-7281

October 11, 2016

Mr. Daniel Y. Hall
Chairman, Missouri Public Service Commission
200 Madison Street, PO Box 360
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0360

To Chairman Hall and Commissioners,

I am writing to express my support for the proposed acquisition of Westar Energy by Great Plains Energy and ask that the Missouri Public Service Commission do everything in its power to accelerate this matter and ensure a smooth integration of the two companies.

As you know, KCP&L has been a strong and committed partner in helping grow the Missouri economy and delivering a high quality of life for our citizens. Their support of the State legislature's efforts to advance Missouri energy policy has been invaluable and they maintain that same sense of partnership with the business community and their residential customers.

Both Westar Energy and KCP&L have electric rates below the national average, both have diversified generation and both have strong reputations in the community. As a combined company, they will be able to further diversify their portfolio and deliver savings and cost efficiencies that will continue to make our low cost of energy a competitive advantage for our region. In short, the benefits of this transaction will make our region an even more attractive place for businesses to invest and grow.

KCP&L, with its headquarters in Missouri, is a local company and a major Missouri employer that is growing and will be an even stronger company with this acquisition. In addition, with all of the recent consolidation and future uncertainty in the utility industry, KCP&L leadership have made commitments that this transaction will give them a better chance to stay local now and well into the future.

I support this acquisition because it paves the way for future economic growth, investment and continued prosperity for the State of Missouri.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd Richardson".

Todd Richardson
Speaker of the Missouri House of Representatives