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Jay Scott Emler
Chairman, Kansas Corporation Commission
1500 SW Arrowhead Road
Topeka, KS 66604-4027

Dear Chairman Emler and Commissioners,

As the executive director of greater Kansas City's environmental non-profit, Bridging The Gap, I would like to express our organization's strong support for the merger of Westar Corporation and Kansas City Power & Light.

Bridging The Gap recognizes that the well-being of Kansas Citizens is deeply intertwined with the health of our forests, waterways, air, soil, and wildlife. We have worked with scores of area companies on environmental progress since the 1990s, but KCP&L is perhaps our closest partner. KCP&L's environmental work takes many forms: investing in or erecting wind energy capacity; leading the nation with an electric vehicle charging network; helping customers become more energy efficient, and offering work crews and equipment to help restore native prairies, plant urban trees, and seed acreage for pollinator habitat. They also generously and steadily support community non-profits like ours and many others.

With the proposed merger, this progressive company will join forces with another organization of similar size and propensities (Westar, for example, is known for the great work of their internal "green" teams). The merger will surely result in internal efficiencies, which will help hold the line on rising utility bills for citizens. Jobs will be kept in Kansas and Missouri which may have gone elsewhere if Westar were sold to foreign investors or other utilities. Commitment to the local communities will remain high as the companies operate in the communities their employees live in.

But most importantly to Bridging The Gap, two companies which hold the keys to progress in affordable, cleaner forms of energy production and sustainable business practices will be pooling their talent and ideas, and extending their influence over a greater geographical region. The resulting, larger company will have greater capacity to tackle the problems of increasing efficiency, responsible power generation, and the transition to new forms of energy and transportation—among the critical issues facing our states and nation today.

Bridging The Gap strongly supports the merger, and as a Kansan and businesswoman I personally support it. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Kristin Riott
Executive Director
kristin.riott@bridgingthegap.org



We want to build even more momentum, accomplish even more, and we think we can do it. But we'll need your help as never before. We ask for your generous support on **Giving Tuesday**, November 29th with a donation at bridgingthegap.org. Please think of us, too, when shopping on Amazon -- go to smile.amazon.com, and name Bridging The Gap as the recipient of a small percentage of their proceeds.

Help us. We need you. Now more than ever. Together we are stronger.

Thank you,



Kristin Riott
Executive Director
kristin.riott@bridgingthegap.org

SAVE THE DATE!

- **Tuesday, November 29, 2016** **GIVING TUESDAY**
- **Saturday, December 3, 2016** **KC WILDLANDS CEDAR TREE EVENT**
- **Saturday, March 4, 2017** **25th ANNIVERSARY GALA CELEBRATION**