



October 11, 2016

Letter of Support

RE: Proposed Westar Energy and KCP&L Merger

The Greater Topeka Chamber board members believe the proposed merger between Westar Energy and KCP&L is the best possible outcome for Topeka/Shawnee County and voted to support the merger on September 15, 2016.

We are extremely fortunate that Westar Energy has found a neighboring buyer that understands and appreciates firsthand the regional needs of individual and corporate customers, especially with regard to business retention and attraction efforts in the heartland. Both of these outstanding companies share a reputation for doing the right thing and going above and beyond with regard to their commitment to employees, safety, service reliability, the environment and corporate philanthropy. These factors all have a positive, critical influence on Topeka/Shawnee County's economic development and quality of life initiatives.

We have met with executives at both companies and have been impressed by their collaborative, thoughtful and respectful discussions regarding how best to merge their operations for the benefit of our region. We especially appreciate their intention to minimize disruption as much as possible by continuing to have a robust workforce in place in Westar's downtown headquarters.

We look forward to the new entity that will be formed through their deliberations and the many advantages that we are confident will accrue to our community through the completion of this transaction.

Sincerely,

Matt Pivarnik  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce and GO Topeka

Brent Boles  
Chamber Chair