

November 28, 2016

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

To Chairman Emler and Commissioners,

As Governor of Kansas, I have made it a priority to make our state the best place in the nation to raise a family and grow a business. In pursuit of this goal, I have made growing the Kansas economy one of the top priorities of my administration. I have continually marketed Kansas to U.S. companies exploring opportunities to grow or relocate and have worked to foster a business and regulatory climate where our existing Kansas companies can prosper and thrive.

During my tenure, I have pursued an all-inclusive energy policy that supports local production of affordable and reliable energy. I am pleased to see that Kansas has become a national leader in renewable energy. Kansas' infrastructure remains among the best in the nation, which helps us to move our resources to market and to expand the options available to employers who wish to invest in renewables. In all of these efforts, KCP&L and Westar Energy have been valuable partners.

As you know, both KCP&L and Westar are critically important companies to our state, both in terms of the jobs they create as well as the energy they supply to our communities. Their success is vital. Knowing that Westar was considering a sale, I was pleased to hear that KCP&L was the company that won the bidding to acquire Westar.

This transaction will have substantial impact on citizens throughout our state. KCP&L is a company that has operated in Kansas for more than 100 years, and I am pleased that such a company is combining with Westar. Before endorsing this transaction, I wanted to understand more about the plan for the combined company and what it will mean for Kansas residents and businesses. After speaking with the management teams of both companies and hearing from them regarding their plans for the future, I support this transaction and believe it will benefit our state.

From their initial announcement, KCP&L and Westar leadership have made it abundantly clear that this merger is about creating a stronger and more efficient utility to serve Kansans while preserving the local jobs and community engagement that have been a hallmark of Westar over the years. Unlike other likely buyers, the combined company will have nearly two-thirds of its customers in Kansas. Kansas needs competitive electric rates to help facilitate strong economic growth. Without this, Kansas will not prosper, and neither will KCP&L. Not only has KCP&L publicly announced plans to keep the current

Westar headquarters in Topeka, they also have committed to placing senior leadership in that location. It is evident that KCP&L leadership understands how important Westar and its employees are to our state.

KCP&L and Westar have publicly committed to maintaining affordable energy rates through this combination by realizing significant operational savings. In addition, both companies are committed to renewable energy. Once combined, they will have one of the largest portfolios of wind energy in the United States. This represents billions of dollars in investment in Kansas. Small businesses, agriculture, industry, and our residents all stand to benefit from this merger and the commitments to Kansas that come with it.

KCP&L is one of the most aggressive and accomplished electric utilities in the nation for economic development. KCP&L has a full-time staff devoted to recruiting companies and jobs to Kansas. With rates below the national average and incentives and revenue justification to extend electrical infrastructure to companies interested in locating in Kansas, KCP&L has proven an advocate of Kansas' friendly business climate. In addition, KCP&L is the only regulated utility in the United States to be a fully accredited economic development organization by the International Economic Development Council.

This merger will benefit the two companies, their customers, and our region. Both companies have a number of joint assets and have been partners for a number of years. I expect the integration process to be smooth and beneficial for employees, customers, and Kansas.

Thank you for your consideration and support of this transaction and for your important service to our State.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Sam Brownback  
Governor, State of Kansas

Cc: Commissioner Shari Feist Albrecht  
Commissioner Pat Apple