



LEAVENWORTH  
COUNTY

DEVELOPMENT CORP  
DEDICATED TO THE  
INDUSTRY OF INNOVATION

**Kansas Corporation Commission  
December 5, 2016**

TESTIMONY

by

Steve Jack, Executive Director  
Leavenworth County Development Corporation

My name is Steve Jack and I am the Executive Director of the Leavenworth County Development Corporation. Our organization is responsible for economic development in Leavenworth County and its communities. Westar currently serves the electric needs of the majority of businesses and residents in our county along with Leavenworth-Jefferson Electric Co-op.

Utilities play a crucial role in what we do as economic developers. We need a utility environment that offers competitive rates, reliability of service and continued investment in infrastructure to support economic growth.

We support the proposed merger of Westar with KCP&L. The combined utilities should be able to find efficiencies which would help stabilize and slow the growth of electric rates and allow for investment in infrastructure. Having two local utilities coming together is likely to create an organization that is more responsive to our local needs than, for example, an ownership group from outside our area.

Partnerships with utility providers also play a vital role in economic development, and the representatives we work with at Westar have been great partners. Being in the Kansas City region, though, we also know what KCP&L has brought to the table in our market. KCP&L has utilized an economic rider that has been crucial in bringing in new businesses to their service area. KCP&L manages the Location One building and sites data base that we currently use. And the Certified Industrial Sites program developed by KCP&L in Missouri is currently being modified by the Kansas Economic Developers Alliance (KEDA) for use in our state.

In conclusion, we understand that a seamless rate structure may take awhile to achieve as well as the use of KCP&L's economic rider, but we are excited about the potential positives a merger between Westar and KCP&L could mean for economic development in Leavenworth County.