

## JEFF LONGBINE

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SENATE CHAMBER

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December 1, 2016

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

Chairman Emler and Commissioners,

I am writing today in support of the proposed sale of Westar Energy to Great Plains Energy, Inc., the parent company of KCP&L. As a life-long Lyon County resident, I have seen firsthand how Westar Energy (aka Western Resources, KPL) has impacted my county and hired many fine employees who have called Lyon County home. The first example is the Wolf Creek Generating Station. Emporia and Lyon County experienced significant growth during the plant's construction, and following its startup my community was called home by many of the highly paid professionals who continue to work at the plant. The second example came when Westar decided to site its natural gas-fired power plant (Emporia Energy Center) just five miles northeast of Emporia. Although the plant does not need many employees, its tax base has contributed to the Lyon County budget as well as North Lyon County's school district's budget. It was a much needed boost for our local economy. Throughout the building process, the company was transparent and worked well with county staff.

I understand the reason for the sale. Maintaining reliability, which is my main concern, is becoming more expensive, and the combination of the two companies will allow costs to be spread across more customers, thus minimizing the impact on everyone. As a member of the Senate Utilities Committee, I have heard testimony on various energy issues from officials at both companies and have always found them to be straightforward in their reasoning and willing to be open-minded on their issues. If I have ever needed a question answered or a concern addressed, the Westar and KCP&L staff did so quickly.

For Kansas to grow, we need a reliable, sustainable and innovative electric utility serving our major population areas as well as those of our rural electric cooperatives and municipal utilities. The combination of these two companies will result in one company that is well known by many in the state. I trust they will continue to be innovative, keeping local centers operating and employees engaged in our communities.

As a community leader, I wanted to let you know of my support. As a state senator, I want you to know of my trust in both companies as they enable new growth in our state and continued support for our local communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Jeff Longbine  
State Senator

Cc: Commissioner Shari Feist Albrecht  
Commissioner Pat Apple