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**RON RICHARD**  
PRESIDENT PRO TEM  
SENATOR  
DISTRICT 32

September 19, 2016

Daniel Y. Hall  
Chairman  
Missouri Public Service Commission  
200 Madison Street  
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear Chairman Hall and Commissioners:

I would like to express my strong support for the proposed acquisition of Westar Energy by Great Plains Energy and ask that the Missouri Public Service Commission do everything possible to expedite this transaction and ensure a smooth integration of the two companies.

As you know, KCP&L has been a strong and committed partner in helping grow the Missouri economy and delivering a high quality of life for our citizens. Their support of the State legislature's efforts to advance Missouri energy policy has been invaluable and they maintain that same sense of partnership with the business community and their residential customers. We are proud to call KCP&L's leadership team and the company's 2,500 Missouri employees, neighbors, colleagues and friends.

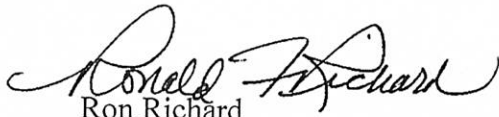
Both Westar Energy and KCP&L have electric rates below the national average, both have diversified generation and both have strong reputations in the community. As a combined company they will be able to further diversify their portfolio and deliver savings and cost efficiencies that will continue to make our low cost of energy a competitive advantage for our region. In short, the benefits of this transaction will make our region an even more attractive place for businesses to invest and grow.

KCP&L, with its headquarters in Missouri, is a local company and a major Missouri employer that is growing and will be an even stronger company with this acquisition. In addition, with all of the recent consolidation and future uncertainty in the utility industry, KCP&L leadership have made commitments that this transaction will give them a better chance to stay local now and well into the future.

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In closing, I support this acquisition because it paves the way for future economic development, investment and continued prosperity for the State of Missouri.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ron Richard". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Ron Richard  
President Pro Tem

cc: Secretary Morris L. Woodruff  
Commissioner Stephen M. Stoll  
Commissioner William P. Kenney  
Commissioner Scott T. Rupp  
Commissioner Maida J. Coleman