



Pittsburg State University

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

November 29, 2016

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

To Chairman Emler and Commissioners:

It is my pleasure to write you in support of the merger of KCP&L and Westar Energy. I know you will do your due diligence in studying the impact of this merger on the state of Kansas and its citizens. It is my hope you and your fellow commissioners wholeheartedly endorse this proposal.

It is no secret our state is in the midst of challenging economic times. That fact has manifested itself in our state's budget. As a president of a state university, this is obviously something I watch closely. While the causes of this struggle, and the possible solutions, are open to debate, one thing I believe we can all agree on is the fact a healthy and vibrant economy is key to our state's long-term success.

A key contributor to our success in growing Kansas' economy, and thereby stabilizing our budget, will be keeping the price of energy low, expanding infrastructure to move our resources to market, and expanding the options available to employers who wish to invest in renewables. After meeting with executives at both KCP&L and Westar on campus, I am confident the combined company can do more for our state than the two companies can separately.

We consider our partnership with the local utility critical. No other entity in Pittsburg or the surrounding area is a greater user of electricity than Pittsburg State. It is a large component of our expenses annually.

This transaction is a significant opportunity for Kansas and one that will have a substantial impact on citizens throughout our state, especially Pittsburg State, the city of Pittsburg, and the surrounding area in southeast Kansas. I am pleased a company that has operated in Kansas for more than 100 years is combining with Westar.

I was initially fearful a company with no experience in Kansas or proven commitment to our state would win the bidding war for Westar. I was so pleased to hear KCP&L, a neighboring company and one who understands our great state, would be merging with Westar. After speaking with the management teams of both companies and hearing from them regarding their plans for the future, I support this transaction even more strongly and believe it will bring many benefits for the future of Kansas.

Starting with the initial announcement, KCP&L and Westar leadership have both 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. This is important to us at Pittsburg State.

KCP&L and Westar have made public commitments that their combination will help maintain affordable energy rates in Kansas by creating significant operational savings. In addition, both KCP&L and Westar are committed to renewable energy, which is something we are also committed to on campus. For instance, we recently installed a demonstration solar project on campus with the help of Westar. Once combined, KCP&L and Westar will have one of the largest portfolios of wind energy in the United States, and the vast majority of it is in Kansas, representing billions of dollars in investment in our state, creating local jobs, and fostering local economic development. Small businesses, agriculture, industry, and our residents all stand to benefit from this merger and the commitments to Kansas that come with it.

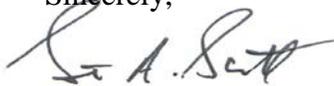
When it comes to economic development, KCP&L has earned its reputation as one of the most aggressive and accomplished electric utilities in the United States. We know this because we reside just a few miles from the Missouri border and often interact with companies in their service territory. KCP&L has a full-time staff devoted to recruiting companies and good paying jobs to Kansas. Proof of this is the fact that KCP&L is the only regulated utility in the U.S. to be a fully accredited economic development organization by the International Economic Development Council.

This focus on economic development from a state university may surprise you, but it is something we prioritize at Pittsburg State. We know our success is tied to the success of the region and the state of Kansas. We decided not to sit back and hope economic development happens, but to rather engage and be a willing partner with the city, county, and state as they try to grow our economy. This merger will further support those efforts.

In so many ways, this merger makes perfect sense for both companies, their customers, and our state. KCP&L has been operating in Kansas for over 100 years. They know Kansas, and they are committed to helping us achieve our full potential.

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

Sincerely,



Steven A. Scott, Ed.D.
President

cc: Commissioner Shari Feist Albrecht
Commissioner Pat Apple