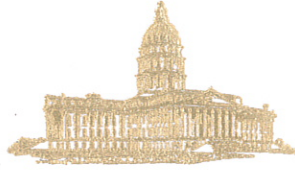


# State of Kansas



## Susan Wagle Senate President

November 27, 2016

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

To Chairman Emler and Commissioners,

The State of Kansas is at an important time in our effort to meet the energy demands of today while also preparing for the requirements of tomorrow. As President of the Kansas Senate, I have become quite familiar with Westar Energy and KCP&L and the role they play in supporting and growing our state's economy. Their mutual commitment to building a diversified portfolio of generation mitigates our risk for what the future may hold while continuing to keep our current energy costs low, which is key to attracting businesses, investment and residents to our great state.

During my time in the Kansas Legislature, I have come to appreciate and respect both of these companies greatly. Their responsiveness to our inquiries and their willingness to provide support for the policy we develop has been tremendously helpful to our efforts. Their executives all live and work right here in our region, so they just like us, want to do everything they possibly can to support Kansas and our residents. As individual companies they are both committed to Kansas; together, they will still be our local electric utility, only stronger and better equipped to keep electric rates affordable.

Initially, I was concerned when I heard the rumors that Westar Energy might be up for sale. This is clearly not the time for our state to lose a major employer and taxpayer. Additionally, Westar plays a prominent role in our local Wichita economy. When KCP&L announced in late May they would be merging with Westar, I was relieved. After learning more about the transaction and KCP&L's plans, I am pleased to offer my wholehearted support. I am writing you today to ask you approve this transaction in order to unlock the benefits this will bring to Kansas.

While obviously financial factors underlie KCP&L's acquisition of Westar, this is not just a financial transaction for the benefit of shareholders. This is an "old fashioned" merger of two neighboring companies. The combination of KCP&L and Westar just makes common sense. There are many strategic and operational advantages to combining these companies:

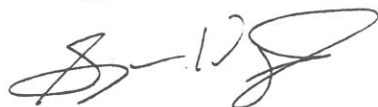
- KCP&L and Westar share multiple power plants, including the Wolf Creek nuclear plant;
- KCP&L and Westar are in the same regional transmission organization, the Southwest Power Pool;
- KCP&L and Westar have adjacent service territories and will be able to improve customer service and reliability like no other combination by leveraging each other's assets and strengths;
- KCP&L and Westar are familiar with each other and have worked together on multiple projects;
- KCP&L and Westar together will be able to find operational savings through eliminating redundant costs, having greater scale and spreading any increased costs over a larger service territory and more customers; and
- KCP&L and Westar are companies who have both operated in Kansas for more than 100 years, they live and work here and will be responsive to the needs of local communities and Kansas.

Starting with the initial announcement, KCP&L has made their intentions for Kansas very clear. They plan to keep the current Westar headquarters in Topeka and committed that key leadership and functions will be located there. KCP&L also has confirmed that they will continue to support Westar's philanthropic and community focus. Since the announcement, KCP&L's CEO, Terry Bassham, has met repeatedly with community and civic leaders so that they could hear directly from him and that he understands the concerns of his future employees and the customers the company will serve. Once this merger is complete, KCP&L will have nearly two thirds of its customers in Kansas, making Kansas the most significant and important part of the combined company's operations.

Westar and KCP&L are both a natural and great fit together. This truly is the best possible outcome that could have happened to our state. Westar has sold to a local company that has made public commitments that will result in the continuation of a major employer and taxpayer remaining here. Most importantly, KCP&L knows Kansas and has been doing business in our state for more than 100 years. I look forward to what their combined efforts will do for our state over the next 100 years.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Susan Wagle  
President  
Kansas State Senate

cc: Commissioner Shari Feist Albrecht  
Commissioner Pat Apple