

Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board

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HOUSE UTILITIES AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE H.B. 2487

Testimony on Behalf of the Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board
By David Springe, Consumer Counsel
February 19, 2014

Chairman Seiwert and members of the committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony on H.B. 2487. The Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board (CURB) supports this bill and urges the Committee to pass H.B. 2487.

H.B. 2487 amends K.S.A. 2013 Supp. 66-131 to exempt applications for commission approval of mergers, acquisitions or transmission only certificates of public convenience from the requirement that the commission shall issue a decision on all applications under the section within 180 days. These types of certificate proceedings often raise difficult factual and legal questions about the transaction itself or the utilities in question, and may not lend themselves well to arbitrary deadlines. CURB believes that Kansas utility customers are served best when the state corporation commission endeavors to find the right answer to any application, rather than simply finding the quick answer due to a statutory deadline that has no relation to the transaction in questions.

CURB supports the language exempting mergers, acquisitions or transmission only certificates from the 180 deadline contained in current law.