

For Immediate Release

David Nickel Retires from Consumer Counsel for CURB; Astrab Assumes Role.

On January 3, 2025, David Nickel retired from the position of Consumer Counsel for the Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board (CURB). Mr. Nickel served as Consumer Counsel for nine years while representing residential and small commercial ratepayer interests before the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) and Kansas Legislature. David made it CURB's ambition to ensure sufficient and reasonably priced gas and electric service for every Kansan, especially energy-burdened households. During his tenure, Mr. Nickel grew the agency by adding new positions and fostering a solid foundation of experience and knowledge for CURB staff to provide excellent representation and advocacy.

Joseph Astrab stepped into the role of Consumer Counsel after serving as an attorney for CURB since 2019. Mr. Astrab has been involved in a number of high-profile cases before the KCC, such as the Winter Storm Uri cost recovery dockets and the first Evergy general rate case following the end of a five-year rate moratorium. "I appreciate all that David has done for the agency and myself working in this unique industry. He conducted himself with a real sense of leadership and dedication in all aspects of the job," says Astrab, "I look forward to the opportunity to continue his work as consumer counsel and to promote quality utility service at a just price with CURB."

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