



**JOE REARDON**  
President and  
Chief Executive Officer

September 20, 2016

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

Dear Chairman Emler:

I am writing in support of the proposed merger between KCP&L and Westar Energy. These two Kansas City regional companies coming together will certainly benefit our businesses, our community, and our future. This merger will enhance the Greater Kansas City community based on the strong track record of both companies in their community engagement.

Both KCP&L and Westar are leaders of the broader regional community. They are dedicated to advancing the growth of our region's businesses and economy. They advocate on behalf of our regional community both locally and globally. They collaborate both amongst each other and with businesses in the region. They connect community and commerce towards a higher purpose and goal. They are champions for the region through their innovative and visionary business models and leadership. Finally, they empower their employees to be stewards of the communities in which they live, work and play. I have been witness to this engagement in my role at the Chamber and am encouraged by the positive opportunity this combination will provide to the Kansas City region.

History has proven that when utilities are operated by holding companies located far away from the regions they serve, their support for local community engagement and economic development declines. When utilities expand their operations in a geographic region, they become that much more committed and engaged.

We also know that businesses around the country and the world understand the importance of competitive electric rates and the benefits of a diversified portfolio of energy sources. KCP&L and Westar's innovations and leadership have fostered a climate in our region that attracts businesses and skilled individuals. The merger will improve our competitive advantage, creating opportunities and savings throughout our area.

The Greater Kansas City metro area is home to vibrant cities, flourishing suburban communities, rolling hills and tree-lined boulevards, a thriving economy driven by thousands of small businesses, tech start-ups, medical research and the headquarters of companies like Hallmark and Sprint. With your approval, we can also add an innovative and collaborative Fortune 1000 utility whose top priority will be the betterment of our region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joe Reardon', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Joe Reardon  
President and CEO

cc: Commissioner Shari Feist Albrecht  
Commissioner Pat Apple