



CONTACT

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## **Climate + Energy Project Concerned with Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board's proposed changes to agency**

Hutchinson, KS - The Climate + Energy Project (CEP) sent a letter on Wednesday to the Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board's (CURB) members sharing concerns with a proposal to change the agencies mission, [as reported by the Wichita Eagle](#).

CEP's letter voiced support for the importance of an independent agency capable of providing expert testimony and in-depth analysis during utility rate cases and legislative hearings in order to protect the interests of residential and small commercial utility ratepayers in the state of Kansas.

As a frequent participant in utility dockets over the past several years, CEP recognizes the value of CURB's staff and board members and believes them to be an asset in the regulatory process. Despite losing the expertise of their lead counsel David Springe, CURB's mission and legislative directive remains the same.

"A small business or individual would normally not have the necessary financial resources or utility expertise to participate in hearings at the Kansas Corporation Commission. Without CURB, that important advocate for consumers will be lost," Dorothy Barnett, executive director for non-profit, Climate + Energy Project, said on Wednesday.

CEP encourages the CURB board; legislators and Governor Brownback to ensure a robust consumer advocate voice remains in Kansas.

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December 16, 2015

Dear Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board members:

I was distraught to learn from an article in the Wichita Eagle today that you are considering dissolving the Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board (CURB) or changing CURB's focus to fight federal clean air regulations.

I am a Kansas ratepayer and I direct a non-profit who works on energy issues in our state and I am extremely disturbed by this proposal.

Without CURB to protect the interests of residential and small commercial utility ratepayers in the state of Kansas, ratepayers will be left without a strong consumer advocate voice.

The Climate + Energy Project has participated in a number of utility dockets over the years and have found CURB's staff and Board to be an asset to the regulatory process. Despite losing your very capable and passionate lead counsel David Springe; the CURB staff is quite able to proceed in an effective manor. CURB fills an important independent voice in the regulatory process and their mission should continue un-hampered.

I hope you will reconsider making any changes to this very important agency.

Sincerely,

*Dorothy*

Dorothy Barnett  
Executive Director  
Climate + Energy Project

cc: Governor Sam Brownback  
cc: Representative Steve Becker  
cc: Senator Terry Bruce

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