

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0609

February 18, 2021

The Honorable Joe Manchin, Chairman  
Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources  
304 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Barrasso, M.D., Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources  
304 Dirksen Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Chairman Manchin and Ranking Member Barrasso,

For more than a week, Kansas has experienced record-breaking cold temperatures with ice and snow accumulating over much of the state. Temperatures have set new record-lows and multiple cities in Kansas have set new days-below-freezing records. Additionally, multiple states across the Great Plains and Midwest have also endured unseasonably cold temperatures and continued freezing conditions.

Kansas Governor Laura Kelly issued a state disaster declaration and the Kansas Corporation Commission issued an emergency order directing utilities to do everything possible and necessary to ensure continued delivery of electricity, natural gas, and propane to Kansas customers. Kansas companies have seen their power cut and Kansans have experienced rolling blackouts.

I respectfully request that the Senate Committee on Energy & Natural Resources hold a hearing to examine the reliability and resiliency of the electric grid in extreme weather events like the arctic blast. More specifically, I believe it is prudent to examine the affordability of electricity and natural gas when the system is stressed. The Midwest and Great Plains have seen cold weather before. Electricity generators and natural gas producers in the north consistently operate in extreme cold weather. The ultimate questions become, "Why weren't we prepared?" and "What can we do to ensure this doesn't happen again?"

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Roger Marshall, M.D.  
United States Senator