Climate change is an increasing threat to Kansans’ health, safety and prosperity. The ongoing climate crisis demands immediate action from every level of government, from local to state to federal. Continued investment in our abundant wind and solar resources can maximize energy, economic, environmental and health benefits. With a commitment to rapidly decarbonize our electricity, transportation, agriculture and buildings sectors, Kansas can build community resilience and be a leader in the fight against climate change.

CLEAN ENERGY
We strongly support efforts to generate 100% of our state’s electricity needs with renewable energy. We support a strong clean energy export market. With Kansas’ ability to lead in wind and solar power, along with its relatively low population, we think this is achievable by 2030.

We would like to see alternatives to the current solar demand charge, which severely limits consumers’ ability to choose clean energy for their home.

We support a modernized grid to expand distributed energy resources, including microgrids for increased resiliency, energy efficiency, demand-side management, solar, wind and storage.

We support securitization to retire uneconomic coal power assets with the aim of expediting the transition to clean energy technologies. Securitization, with proper oversight by the Kansas Corporation Commission, can save ratepayers money and provide worker retraining and community economic development funds for impacted communities.

We support the development of a Hot Weather Rule, which will prevent electricity shut-offs during extreme heat events to safeguard the health and safety of Kansans.

We support an independent energy office which will work to transform markets for energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies through policies, strategies, and public-private partnerships to facilitate their adoption and implementation.

We support the development of a statewide energy plan with robust stakeholder engagement, to guide the transition to a 21st century energy system. We applaud Governor Kelly for initiating this step already.
Finally, we encourage Governor Kelly to join a bipartisan group of Governors in the U.S. Climate Alliance.

TRANSPORTATION

We support funding and implementing alternative transportation options within the state of Kansas, from traditional methods such as designs to encourage walking, biking, and train travel to modern methods such as electric vehicles and expanded public transportation options.

Last year, a law was enacted to increase registration fees on electric and hybrid vehicles. We oppose any further tax increases on electric and hybrid vehicles. While we understand the state’s infrastructure needs and how the current funding mechanism does not account for more efficient vehicles, we support the establishment of a committee to re-examine the underlying funding mechanism to promote efficient cars.

We support the continuation and expansion of Rails to Trails in Kansas, which is a boon to both sustainable transportation and tourism.

We support the transition of state vehicles to hybrid or electric vehicles when possible or available.

We support the expansion of electric charging station infrastructure within the state in order to increase the pace of electric car adoption. We support a change to allow sales of electricity at EV charging stations.

AGRICULTURE

The agricultural industry is a leading source of climate-changing gases, but it also can be a critical part of the solution. We support legislation that incentivizes regenerative agriculture and carbon farming through grants and loans; we support expanded state promotion of climate resilience and carbon sequestration practices through education and research.

The practices that Kansas farmers can adopt and that the state can incentivize include: reduced/no use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides; cover cropping, which provides multiple benefits including carbon sequestration, soil improvement, and water retention; reducing or eliminating tillage; rotational grazing; and others that address carbon, methane, and nitrous oxide emissions.

FINANCING/TAXATION

We strongly support joining 35+ other states and enabling commercial property-assessed clean energy (PACE) financing in order to fund climate-related building improvements including energy efficiency, renewable energy and water efficiency projects.
We support expanding wind and solar production in a fair and equitable manner. We support developing guidelines and minimum standards for responsible development to best balance the growing industry and the concerns of landowners and conservationists.

We oppose preemption of local control as it relates to environmental or climate change policies.