



Our Mission

To improve the lives of economically vulnerable populations through innovative client services, public policy advocacy, and by developing information systems that help other assistance organizations serve client more efficiently and comprehensively.

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August 24, 2022

Good morning Mayor Lucas, committee members of the City Council, I'm John Rich, the Executive Director for Mid America Assistance Coalition, MAAC, representing the most vulnerable individuals and families in our community.

MAAC manages an array of services used by those on limited incomes who struggle to pay their bills and afford the most basic of services most of us take for granted. This includes administration of the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, LIHEAP, a multi-million dollar utility assistance program serving Jackson, Clay and Platte counties.

We have learned that this plan was developed over the course of a year involving all aspects of our community. However, as a leading agency providing services to vulnerable households, we were never asked to be involved during the input phase. We would like to do so now.

I am commenting today, not to protest the plan, but to support and enhance it with the addition of consideration for energy reliability and affordability as we believe these factors have not been fully incorporated into this plan.

We are mindful of the need for our region's transition to clean energy sources. However, as we move to a carbon neutral future, the need to balance reliability and affordability is critical. We believe if this plan is approved by the City as is, it could cause undue cost increases and impact the reliability of the critical services on which we all rely. These factors impact our most vulnerable community the greatest.

MAAC is respectfully asking that you please consider this addition to the energy portion of the plan:

“Utilities should pursue an energy portfolio that factors in the impacts of reliability and affordability on customers as the city moves toward a clean energy future.”

Thank you.

John Rich, Executive Director
Mid America Assistance Coalition