Environmental Management Commission of Kansas City Missouri

May 10, 2019

Dear Mayor James and Members of the City Council:

RE: The vitality and resilience of Kansas City

Kansas City has made remarkable progress with its environmental performance since the Office of Environmental Management and the Environmental Management Commission were created in 1996 and the Climate Protection Steering Committee was created in 2006. This inspired governance has saved money and made our city more efficient, healthy, and resilient.

We appreciate the leadership you have provided and the creative, collaborative work the City Manager and city staff have accomplished with smart, integrated management leading to more efficient buildings, fleet and infrastructure, leading to the recent passage of Ordinance 190233 authorizing the landmark agreement with KCP&L to procure electricity from wind power.

Unfortunately, these successes and our newly achieved efficiency and resilience will fall short of protecting our citizens from the unprecedented climate emergency before us. According to the Weather Channel, Kansas City ranks 5th among US cities projected to feel the effects of climate change in spite of our distance from rising oceans. We are an urban heat island, hotter than our rural surroundings. We'll experience hotter summers and prolonged periods of droughts. Wet seasons and more storm bombs will increase flooding, and our seasons will be increasingly unpredictable.

We have attached *EMC Recommendations, 2019 Forward* outlining some of the resources and partnerships that are available to address these new challenges and convert them to opportunities to continue making our community healthier, more efficient, resilient and beautiful.

We look forward to working with you and city staff to embrace these opportunities and to advance our community as a national pilot for success.

Respectfully summited,

Bob Berkebile, Co-Chair, EMC   Carol T. Adams, Co-Chair, EMC

cc: Troy Schulte, City Manager

The Kansas City Environmental Management Commission was created to make policy recommendations to the City Council, staff and all other boards and commissions of the City concerning the issues of environmental planning, management and compliance with Federal, State and local regulations and programs.