

Testimony of Jasmine Bates for Senate Bill 24
Written-only Opponent to SB 24

Dear Chairman Thompson and members of the Senate Utilities Committee,

My name is Jasmine Bates and I live in Lawrence, KS. I am writing to submit testimony opposing Senate Bill No. 24. This bill presents itself as preserving a customer's choice in energy suppliers. What it is actually doing is opposing the will of the people by preventing municipalities from transitioning to clean energy. Clean energy is popular, safe, profitable, and what we need to stop the climate crisis we are currently in. I would like to note that myself and many residents already have no choice in energy supplier - making the argument for preserving said choice moot. This bill represents to me a clear example of government denying the will of the people and continuing to kick the climate crisis down the road. We will not be able to kick this down the road forever. This crisis is not going away. The future of the human race depends on us starting to make changes like transitioning to clean energy starting NOW. If the argument of the companies supporting this bill is that they will lose revenue, 1) they already have plenty of money, and 2) they should transition like the rest of us to producing clean energy instead of energy killing the planet and us.

Natural gas jobs are bubble jobs. They will not last. Instead of protecting and supporting the dying fossil fuel industry, we should be focused on facilitating a just economic transition away from natural gas and other harmful pollutants and towards Kansas' abundant renewable energy sources like solar and wind. Kansas must be proactively preparing workers for the renewable energy economy, not giving them false assurances of long-term job security. I urge you to support Kansans and our economic future by rejecting this bill.

Thank you for your consideration,

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