

Testimony of Kate Haefele for Senate Bill 24
Written-only Opponent to SB 24

Dear Chairman Thompson and members of the Senate Utilities Committee,

My name is Kate Haefele and I am a resident of Prairie Village, Kansas. I am writing to submit testimony opposing Senate Bill No. 24. This bill presents itself as preserving a customer's choice in energy suppliers. However, it is actually 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 currently facing us. As a student of ecology, I know how crucial it is to preserve our world, for the future of our human species as well as countless others with which we are connected. However, we cannot preserve much at all if legislation is passed that prevents local authorities from switching to clean energy if they determine that is the best plan for their area.

The companies supporting this bill may argue that they will lose revenue if it is not passed. I cannot pretend this is completely untrue, but I can say that the eventual consequences of continuing to use nonrenewable fossil fuels will be devastating to all of us, including those that currently provide energy to our communities from those fossil fuels. The cost of transitioning to cleaner, renewable energy sources now (a transition that will create many job opportunities) is far less than the price we as a state, a nation, and a species will pay if we refuse to adapt to this changing world.

Natural gas jobs, like oil drilling and coal mining, will not last as we deplete these resources and continue to release toxic pollutants and greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. We should be focused on harnessing solar and wind power, abundant and renewable in our state, like so many others are beginning to do. We should be preparing workers of Kansas for this transition, training them for the multitude of new jobs that will be needed. I urge you to support Kansans and our economic and environmental future by rejecting this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

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