

Dear Senate Utilities Committee:

Opposition to SB 24

The Energy Choice Act would absolutely move Kansas in the wrong direction, and it must be opposed. As a young person, I have grown up fearing for my future, knowing that this world will be wracked by catastrophic climate change that is absolutely preventable. As a voter in Olathe, this is an issue I care about deeply. I have grown up in Olathe and experienced relative climate stability so far in my life. There have been minor inconveniences like the massive crop-destroying floods that have made it more difficult to visit family in Nebraska, for instance, but personally I have not yet experienced the worst of environmental injustice. But going to college changed my perspective. I met friends from the West Coast who have had to evacuate due to wildfires. I have met friends from the South who just now experienced one of the worst hurricane seasons on record. I know that what we do in each part of our country has worldwide effects, and I must take a stand against injustice if I expect anyone else to stand up for me. As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. teaches us, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." We must demand better. This is why I am part of the Sunrise Movement, a youth-led movement fighting for climate justice because we know that this is the only way we can make a liveable future for ourselves.

Beyond just investing in destructive fossil fuels, my local utility company Evergy is also refusing to reconnect people without a fee during a global pandemic and economic crisis, and has funded seditious individuals and events like Senators Josh Hawley and Ted Cruz and the January 6th Stop the Steal rally in Washington, D.C. Evergy must face more regulation to rectify all the harm it has caused, not less. I urge you to oppose the Energy Choice Act."

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