



February 18, 2020

The Honorable Sean Tarwater
Kansas House of Representatives
Capitol Building
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Chairman Tarwater:

Good afternoon Chairman Tarwater and members of the committee: My name is Jared Geiger. I am the Vice President of Rates and Regulatory Affairs for the Colorado-Kansas Division of Atmos Energy Corporation. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support for HB 2703, which would ensure access for all Kansans to all energy appliances that are approved by national model codes. Atmos Energy supports HB 2703 because Kansans deserve the opportunity to make the most responsible and affordable choice when it comes to energy needed to heat their homes and businesses.

Atmos Energy is the nation's largest natural-gas only utility. In Kansas we are privileged to serve more than 135,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers. In the northeast, we serve, Olathe, Kansas City, Overland Park and others. To the southwest, Johnson City, Ulysses, and Syracuse. We also serve the southeast communities of Independence and Coffeyville. In the central part of Kansas, we provide service to the communities of Anthony and Caldwell, as well as Ness City, Herington, and many others.

The amendment to HB 2703 proposed by Kansas Gas Service¹ will perform a valuable role in promoting uniformity across Atmos Energy's service territories and the state of Kansas, protecting consumers from the issuance of specific codes that would restrict or limit the use of otherwise nationally-approved applications for natural gas.

We agree with our utility peers in the growing concern about local governments across the country proposing to limit energy choice, including banning the use of natural gas in residential and commercial applications. Atmos Energy supports energy policies and solutions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, advocate for affordability, preserve the safety and reliability of energy service, and most importantly - protect consumers' right to choose energy solutions.

¹ *No political subdivision of this state may adopt an ordinance, resolution, regulation, code, or policy that prohibits, or has the effect of prohibiting, the connection or reconnection of a utility service based upon the type or source of energy to be delivered to an individual customer.*

By guaranteeing Kansans continued access to safe, efficient natural gas appliances to heat their homes, HB 2703 will protect many of our states' most vulnerable residents from the restricted access to safe, reliable, and affordable natural gas.

Given the position natural gas holds as an essential source of energy and its vital role in reducing emissions, natural gas policy for Kansas should be set at the state-level. HB 2703 helps fulfill this goal.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jared Geiger
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