

To: Senate Utilities Committee
Re: SB 124 "The Energy Fairness Act"

Chairman Masterson, Vice Chairman Peterson, Ranking Member Francisco, and all the honorable members of this committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to be with you today as I speak in support of Senate Bill 124, the Energy Fairness Act.

I am Lindsey Constance, a mother, an educator, a Councilwoman from the great city of Shawnee, and a proud native Kansan.

As elected officials, we represent a creative state, one that values hard work and an entrepreneurial spirit. We carry on the traditions of our forefathers in that we are willing to be bold, to seize opportunities, and to be proactive and practical problem solvers.

That's why I'm here today: To advocate for my constituents who are choosing to be bold, to take advantage of an opportunity given to us from above, and who are joining us as partners in protecting our environment.

You have heard and will hear from many today who will discuss this Bill's effect on the solar industry, or the property rights of homeowners. These are reasonable bases upon which to support it. Additionally, residential solar is a solution that serves not only individual Kansans, but also the larger community. As some of you know, I am the co-founder of an organization called The Metro KC Climate Action Coalition. Our group consists of local leaders and elected officials whose mission is to enact and foster proactive strategies, systems and structures within the KC region that will drawdown greenhouse gases, improve climate resiliency and generate corresponding economic, social, health and quality of life benefits.

As a municipality, Shawnee is proving itself a leader as we increase energy efficiency and decrease the carbon footprint imposed by our municipal operations. We recently invested in an audit through the facility conservation improvement plan, which identified opportunities to reduce energy expenditures through efficiency upgrades. Our Council Committee unanimously recommended an investment in renewable energy and the modernizations of city buildings, which will not only increase energy cost savings, but will serve to protect our Kansas environment.

Our residents should have the same opportunity. If we are to take on the impending challenge of a changing climate, a multifaceted approach is needed. Rooftop solar has the potential to be one of the most effective ways to reduce greenhouse gases. We should do that which is within our power to encourage our constituents to join us as problem solvers, bold innovators, and the protectors of our great state in bringing clean, renewable energy to Kansas.

For this reason, I ask that you join me in supporting this Bill.

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