

STATE OF KANSAS  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE CAPITOL  
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66612  
(785) 296-7652  
christina.haswood@house.ks.gov



P.O. BOX 3038  
LAWRENCE, KANSAS 66046  
(785) 380-8992

CHRISTINA HASWOOD, MPH  
10TH DISTRICT

March 17, 2021

**Committee on Judiciary**  
**Representative Fred Patton, Chairman**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I rise today in opposition to SB 172. This bill overreaches on our U.S. Constitutional First Amendment, Free Speech as it threatens Kansans to their right to peacefully protest. I believe the creation of this bill was not made in good faith, as post the Standing Rock protest, we have seen similar legislation across the nation directing at Native peoples.

These four new crimes related to critical infrastructure facilities create unnecessary harsh punishments for protestors. Not only is there no evidence of pipeline protesting in Kansas, but this will disproportionately impact the Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities.

My constituents of District 10 are home to strong and resilient peoples of all backgrounds and age. We stand up for what we believe is right and often that includes peaceful protesting. This bill appears to be inspired by the Standing Rock Protest of the Keystone XL pipeline. Though, you may call these brave individuals' protestors, I call them Water Protectors. I rise in **opposition to SB 172.**

Respectfully,

Representative Christina Haswood, MPH