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## **Testimony to Kansas Senate Utilities Committee**

### **Senate Bill 24**

An Act concerning municipalities; prohibiting any requirements that impact a customer's use of energy; relating to public utilities; creating the Kansas energy choice act

**Edward P. Cross, President**  
**Kansas Independent Oil & Gas Association**

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Chairman Thompson and members of the committee. I am Edward Cross, President of the Kansas Independent Oil & Gas Association (KIOGA). KIOGA represents thousands of independent oil and natural gas explorers and producers, as well as allied service and supply companies. Our members account for 86% of the oil and 63% of the natural gas produced in Kansas. With nearly 3,500 members across the entire state, KIOGA is the lead state and national advocate for the Kansas independent oil and natural gas industry. I am responsible for public policy advocacy and interaction with external stakeholders including elected officials, regulators, governmental decision-makers, and community leaders. I submit this testimony expressing our support for Senate Bill 24 (SB 24).

The Kansas oil and gas industry supports SB 24. Some cities across the U.S. are pursuing misguided policies banning the use of natural gas equipment and connections in new buildings and construction. However, banning natural gas would not only negatively impact local business, customers, and communities; it also threatens to take away the right of the people to choose their energy. SB 24 would prohibit local governments in Kansas from taking away energy choice options for Kansas citizens.

The “renewable electric grid” still relies on natural gas for reliable energy to make up for the intermittent nature of renewable energy sources. So, it doesn’t make sense to require new all electric buildings when that electricity will likely be generated in part by natural gas. In addition, energy choice keeps all forms of energy competitive.

Some say that the bill is needed to meet climate goals. That simply is not correct. The U.S. emitted 12% fewer energy-related carbon emissions in 2018 than 2005. The latest Energy Information Administration (EIA) data show natural gas is responsible for 2.8 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide emission reductions since 2005. That represents 61% of overall power sector reductions during that time-frame and 57% more than reductions attributable to renewables. The EIA report indicates U.S. carbon emissions are the lowest they have been in nearly seven decades. In addition, emissions of the six “criteria pollutants” monitored by the EPA are down 77% since 1970.

SB 24 ensures Kansas citizens will have a choice for energy providers and offers a clear pathway to the shared goal of reducing emissions while maintaining the affordability, reliability, and the quality of life that Americans enjoy.

I hope this discussion provides a better understanding of our support for the Kansas energy choice act. We urge you to pass SB 24. Thank you.