



January 26, 2021

Chairman Thompson, and Members of the Senate Committee on Utilities, thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony on behalf of the Kansas Building Industry Association (KBIA) in support of SB 24. KBIA is an affiliate of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) with nine local building associations and more than 2,000 members across the State of Kansas.

SB 24, as introduced, would prohibit municipalities from adopting local codes or ordinances that would prohibit, or limit, citizen's choice of energy source. This bill was introduced in direct response to policies being introduced across the country that threaten housing affordability and consumer choice for energy service. If enacted these policies will have a chilling effect on residential construction by prohibiting a viable, cost-effective source of energy for homes. This impact will be particularly harmful to low and middle income home buyers.

In presentations to the Kansas Legislature this year the Kansas Department of Commerce has pointed to the "intersection between workforce and housing" as a critical component of future economic development in our state. The ability to attract new industry to Kansas depends on many factors, but attracting and retaining a viable workforce is near the top of that list. And that workforce needs quality housing. With ever rising cost of materials, placing additional restrictions on energy choices for new construction needlessly raises the cost of housing, forces Kansans out of the market, and makes it harder for communities to attract new jobs.

SB 24 will protect consumer choice allowing a homeowner to choose the energy source that best meets their individual needs while providing for a full array of options to help protect affordability. At a time when family budgets are tight it is imperative that we stop these harmful prohibitions from being enacted across the State of Kansas. KBIA supports SB 24 and we ask that the committee recommend it favorable for passage.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sean Miller  
Kansas Building Industry Association