



January 26, 2021

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce and our more than 1,500 members, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of S.B. 24 concerning municipalities; prohibiting any requirements that impact a customer's use of energy; relating to public utilities; creating the Kansas energy choice act.

SB 24 would create the Kansas Energy Choice Act. The Act would prohibit a municipality from taking any action that would limit a customer's use of a service from a public utility based upon the source of the energy to be delivered to the customer. The Chamber stands in strong support of this legislation as we believe it is good public policy and is a necessary and critical step in protecting the Kansas economy.

Kansans are fortunate in that they benefit from a diverse set of energy sources to power their homes and businesses. This diversity of supply ensures reliable power and promotes more competitive rates, something you as policymakers have been focused on in the past several sessions.

The Chamber believes that decisions regarding energy regulation, including the type of energy sources consumers have available to them, is best left to the Kansas Legislature, and not various local governments. The Wichita Chamber has long championed a regulatory system that is easy to understand and to comply with. Promoting policies that help grow the Kansas economy and ensure that Kansas is viewed as a competitive destination for job creators is central to our mission.

We believe that passage of S.B. 24 would assist in keeping the Kansas open for business sign shining bright here in the heart of America. Therefore, we request that the Committee report S.B. 24 favorable for passage.

Thank you and I am happy to stand for questions at the appropriate time.

Very truly yours,

Jason P. Watkins
Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce